



Annual Report 2022-2023

1. Introduction

WIDE+ is a European network of **feminist activists, scholars, and women's rights organisations that reaches out to 300 associations, through its national membership-based networks and organisations across Europe**. It promotes women's rights through analysing the systemic causes of inequality and advocating for transformative change. WIDE+ comes from a collaboration between feminists in the global South and feminist economists spanning close to 40 years. In the last 10 years WIDE+ has been able to connect this global expertise with feminist activism in Europe.

Our core strengths are our **scope, activism and diversity of our network**. WIDE+ has members in many European states and partners around the globe.

For us, feminism is not only about challenging patriarchy. We strongly believe that many of the current crises we face in Europe and beyond are caused by neo-liberal approaches that put big business and privatization before the wellbeing and human rights of people. Work primarily done by women is still made invisible (unpaid care work) or exploited at the bottom end of the pay scale.

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+ strongly believes that women are not a homogeneous group and that without respect for the multitude of feminisms, we cannot 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.

The WIDE+ governance structure allows for all members to be involved through horizontal participatory democracy. It draws its governance from key feminist principles. It is democratically governed, with:

- **General Assembly.** Members make up the highest decision-making body, the General Assembly, which meets at minimum once a year.
- **Caucus.** The Caucus is an elected body of around 20 members who set the overall strategic course of the network. This body, which meets mostly via Zoom and communicates weekly through email, sets and oversees our strategic and programmatic direction.
- **Board.** The Board is responsible for the financial and administrative management. There are at least five Board members elected by the General Assembly. The members meet via Zoom every two months and exchange emails in between.
- **Working Groups.** Ad Hoc Working Groups (WG) are mandated to carry forward the work, either implementing specific projects or working around themes. They form the heart of the network which the Caucus coordinates.

WIDE+ in Action 2022-2023

- 4 transnational projects around gender and algorithm in hiring, climate justice, migrant political participation and youth volunteerism.
- 4 thematic working groups around gender and trade, migration, feminist movement building and feminist economic justice.
- Around 50 active members and volunteers, 9 board members, 3 part time secretariat members.

In 2022 and 2023, WIDE+ intervention strategies remained:

- **Building the capacities of feminists and other relevant stakeholders** in the following ways: focusing on feminist economic literacy including digitalization, coalition building of migrant feminists (their perspectives, needs and resources), and enhancing transnational feminist solidarity.
- **Advocating with European decision makers** for a transformation of macro-economic policies that seriously integrate environmental issues and that take account of the possible impacts of these policies on different women's rights, including migrant women within Europe and women in the Global South.
- **Building trans-sectoral alliances/collaborations with groups and social movements in Europe** that also want a different political-economic order, moving away from the current neoliberal model in which democracy is being traded in favour of big private interests.
- **Ensuring WIDE+ financial and organizational sustainability & keep its strong ethical and horizontal governance model in place.**



RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WOMEN

WIDE+ promotes womxn's rights of migrants, undocumented workers, trafficked and others that are on the move or have come from another country through different projects, coordinated through its [European Working Group](#). WIDE+ is currently facilitating the [WE-EMPOWER project](#).

WIDE+ Online

WIDE+ website: <https://wideplus.org/>

Instagram: [feministwide](#)

Facebook: [FacebookFeministwide](#)

LinkedIn: [feministwide](#)

X: <https://x.com/FeministWIDE>

WIDE+ E-Newsletters one to two issues per month: <https://wideplus.org/e-newsletter-2014/>

Image left is a snippet from our website

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2. Structure of Report

WIDE+ currently has 4 thematic Working Groups (WG):

- **[Trade and Gender Working Group](#)**: This WG monitors EU trade policy from a feminist perspective, develops public positions and analysis on EU trade and gender issues.
- **[Migration and Gender Working Group](#)**: This WG implements projects that promote migrant feminist movement building throughout Europe, and it engages in collective actions to promote the rights of migrant women and girls.
- **[Feminist Movement Building Working Group](#)**: This WG reflects on strategic and current challenges and intersections within the Feminist movements and plans actions to promote feminist solidarity across Europe.
- **[Feminist Economic Literacy Working Group](#)**: This WG aims to develop concrete projects to implement feminist economic literacy training, however it hasn't been able to be active in 2022 and 2023.
- Finally, there is the **caucus and board** that occasionally also organised activities.

WIDE+ facilitates the following working groups around projects:

- **[CB4VOL Project](#)**: CB4VOL's main objective has been to strengthen the capacity of the consortium organisations to develop volunteering work at local level. At the same time, the partners promoted the participation of youth in their local communities, to improve awareness and knowledge about gender equality and inclusion. The consortium is made up of 4 organisations: Association Asticude in Nador, Morocco; Young Women's Christian Association of Jerusalem, Palestine; Women In Development Europe+ (WIDE+) in Brussels, Belgium, and led by Alianza por Solidaridad in Madrid, Spain. It started in May 2022 and ended in May 2024.
- **[WE-EMPOWER Project](#)**: WIDE+ is leading this project titled: "Expanding tools in Addressing Barriers for Migrant Women to participate in Democratic life", which is a consortium of 7 partners. This transnational collaboration aims to encourage and empower migrant women to participate in civic and democratic action in Europe. The project commenced in April 2022 and will end by November 2024.
- **[COPGENDERED Project](#)**: WIDE+ is leading a consortium of seven organisations of which six are WIDE+ member organisations coupled with LIFE e.V. Online, to implement a collaboration titled: "Gender and Climate Justice: Knowledge for Empowerment" that is financially supported by the EACEA. This project builds up tools, knowledge and methodologies for learners to upskill themselves (in groups, individually or with a teacher) in the relationships between gender inequality and the climate crisis. This includes providing tools for adult education providers. The project started in January 2023 and will last for three years.
- **[FINDHR Project](#)**: WIDE+ is part of an EU funded Horizon consortium to implement a 3-year research and innovation project. It will in collaboration develop methods, algorithms, and training for an intersectional anti-discrimination approach that are contextualized within the technical, legal, and ethical problems of algorithmic hiring, and are applicable to a broad class of applications involving human recommendation. It started in November 2022.

The Annual Report is structured to firstly briefly summarise the project activities and outcomes, followed by outlining the work done by the working groups and the caucus. As the feminist economics working group wasn't able to complete activities, it will not be featured in this Annual Report. Images and illustrations are from the output from the project and working groups (the project pages at the WIDE+ site provide further information about their source).

3. CB4VOL Project to encourage youth volunteering for gender equality and citizenship

Between May 2022 and 2024, WIDE+ participated in this collaborative Erasmus+ project led by Alianza por Solidaridad, called: “Across borders: strengthening youth volunteering to fight for gender equality and social inclusion” that was supported by the European Agency EACEA.

CB4VOL's main objective has been to strengthen the capacity of the consortium organisations to develop volunteering work, especially youth volunteerism around gender equality and inclusion. In the past two years, WIDE+ formed a youth volunteer group (age group 18-30 years of age) that completed one international awareness raising campaign and started to prepare another one. WIDE+ organised training on online campaigning and intersectional feminism as well as reviewed and formalized its volunteer work to better support all volunteers. Through the collaboration in the youth volunteer group, the capacity of volunteers and WIDE+ secretariat members were enhanced. In the first year, WIDE+ published and contributed several training materials. All these activities were done transnationally, within WIDE+ or with the partner organisations.

3.a. Training Materials for volunteering on gender equality and inclusion

The following two training materials were published. Other training materials were shared as part of online training that WIDE+ provided during the project or that can be used for group training of volunteers.

- **WIDE+ Resource Guide “Including Gender Equality in Youth Volunteerism: Tips, Concepts, and Methodologies”, [CB4VOL_Training on Gender Mainstreaming](#)**



This resource guide provides a brief contextualisation and introduction to a gender equality perspective into youth volunteerism (age 18-30 years). It introduces how to approach gender equality and inclusion into volunteer work, including feminist methodologies of non-formal education. It gives references and examples to go deeper into the topic that can be of aid for any one setting up a volunteer project or programme on gender inclusion with young people. It targets youth workers, volunteers with experience, etc. to further enhance their knowledge.

- **WIDE+ Training Curriculum on Online Campaigning: [CB4VOL - Training curriculum for online campaigning final_310123](#).**



This is a training curriculum that introduces online campaigning to women's rights organisations, civil society organisations and other NGOs working with youth volunteers to advocate for issues like gender equality, social inclusion, economic justice, and other related topics. It outlines a series of topics related to online campaigning and the strategic use of digital technology to advance advocacy initiatives to create social or political change. This can be done via e-newsletters, websites, online messaging apps, or social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more.

3.b. WIDE+ Youth Volunteer Group's International Campaign: "Migrant Womxn deserve language at no cost"

In preparation for this online international campaign, WIDE+ volunteers launched their own global initiative, which they began developing shortly after forming their volunteer group in March 2023. This was done through different online and one face-to-face meeting on 16 September in which most of the volunteers took active part. To further enable the volunteers, WIDE+ organized training in campaigning and intersectional feminism. The topics were chosen by the volunteers, asking which topics they would like to receive training on.

The international campaign done by WIDE+ volunteers not only raised awareness of this issue but also engaged a broader audience around the topic. The key message of the campaign was indicated as follows: "Migrant Womxn deserve language at no cost". The campaign took place from October 23 to October 31 and focused on two key objectives:

- **Personal Testimonials:** The campaign comprised a series of seven social media posts, featuring testimonials from migrant women. These posts were designed, developed, and widely promoted across various social media platforms to showcase the diverse and authentic experiences of female migrants (currently based in Italy, Spain, Poland, etc.), underscoring the shared language challenges they encounter. These barriers not only hinder their ability to integrate into the host countries but also, in some cases, pose significant threats to their overall well-being.
- **Call for Action:** The campaign included a compelling public letter aimed at bringing attention to the issue and eliciting input and proactive initiatives to address the challenges faced by female migrants in accessing language classes. This letter was disseminated among a wide range of organisations and associations actively engaged in migration-related work, fostering collaborative efforts to tackle these pressing issues. **Read the full public letter [here](#).**

4. WE-EMPOWER Project to promote Migrant Women to Participate in Democratic Life

This transnational collaboration empowers migrant women to participate in civic and democratic action in Europe, in particular political processes. It does this through: "Expanding tools in Addressing Barriers for Migrant Women to Participate in Democratic Life," which is the title of the project.

Under the acronym WE-EMPOWER, partner organisations [NGO Atina](#), [Romanian Women's](#)

Testimonials

👤 Meet Anastasia, a Ukrainian refugee settled in Poland. Despite her long journey to find a new place to live, she finally ended up in Poland, where she met a Polish family who guided her to find a free language course.

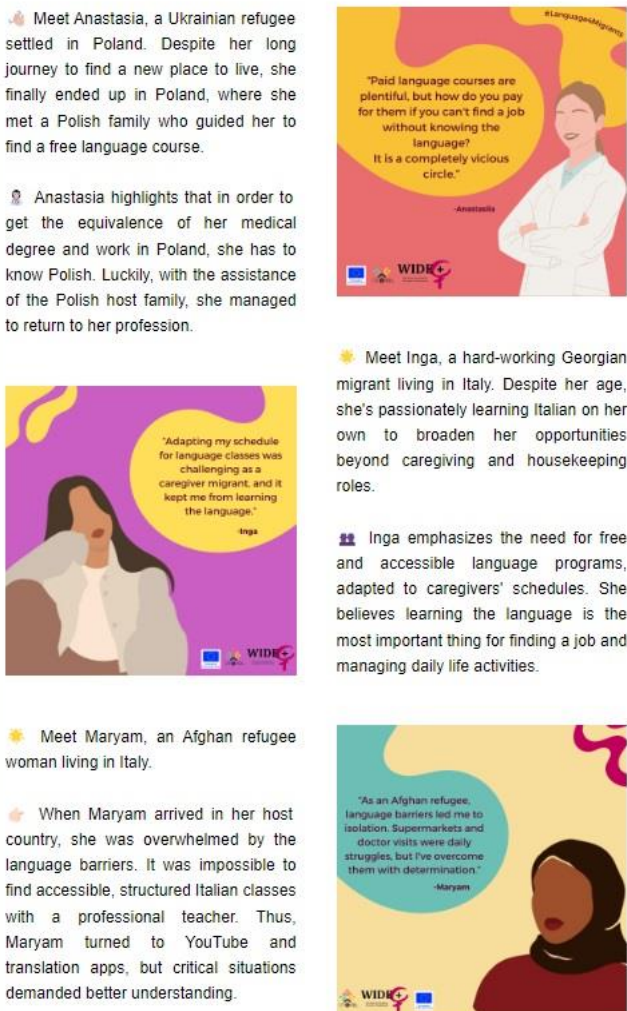
👤 Anastasia highlights that in order to get the equivalence of her medical degree and work in Poland, she has to know Polish. Luckily, with the assistance of the Polish host family, she managed to return to her profession.

🌟 Meet Inga, a hard-working Georgian migrant living in Italy. Despite her age, she's passionately learning Italian on her own to broaden her opportunities beyond caregiving and housekeeping roles.

👤 Inga emphasizes the need for free and accessible language programs, adapted to caregivers' schedules. She believes learning the language is the most important thing for finding a job and managing daily life activities.

🌟 Meet Maryam, an Afghan refugee woman living in Italy.

👤 When Maryam arrived in her host country, she was overwhelmed by the language barriers. It was impossible to find accessible, structured Italian classes with a professional teacher. Thus, Maryam turned to YouTube and translation apps, but critical situations demanded better understanding.



[Lobby](#), [KULU Women and Development](#), [Alianza por la Solidaridad](#), and [Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe](#) (Red Latinas) coordinated by [WIDE+](#) and with a couple of supporting associations ([ADRI Association](#) and [Gabriela Germany](#)) and experts, the group worked for the most part of 2022 and 2023 in completing several concrete tools, and build capacity of migrant women.

The cooperation partnership is between women-led and migrant women-led organisations with a shared mission to protect the rights of migrant women. Migrant women, including gender non-conforming persons, are women who are displaced between countries, trafficked, or who have moved from a third or European country to a destination in Europe. With participation in democratic life the project aims to encourage more participation in political processes as well as within civil society.

4.a. Migrant Women's democratic participation in the EU, Germany, Denmark, Italy, and Serbia

The first of the three non-formal educational materials was completed. A series of studies on the participation of migrant women in 'democratic life' in EU, Serbia, Denmark, Germany, and Italy was developed and published. Each in their own language and in English. Of each study, a factsheet was published as well (in English) and a social media campaign was conducted with all partners to make visible the findings.

All the studies cover demographic information and the rules pertaining to legal conditions for migrant women to take part in political elections. A significant barrier is that migrant women who are third-country nationals are generally not allowed to cast ballots in municipal, national, or European elections. However, there are some exceptions, such as in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland, where third-country nationals can vote in municipal and regional elections if they have a certain number of years of residence. In France, Austria, Germany, and Italy, the right of third-country nationals to vote is being debated and requires constitutional change (ECIT Foundation, 2020). The studies found different other barriers linked to migrant women's integration into societies but also highlighted examples of women with an ethnic background in politics, policies, and practices of promoting migrant women in public decision-making.

- Compiled report (in English and multiple languages): [Briefing Papers for baseline studies on migrant women's democratic participation in EU, Germany, Denmark, Italy and Serbia](#)
- Compiled factsheets (in English): [Factsheets for baseline studies on migrant women's democratic participation in EU, Germany, Denmark, Italy and Serbia](#)

Individual factsheets (all in English):

[Factsheet on the Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Denmark](#)
[Factsheet on the Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Germany](#)
[Factsheet on the Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Serbia](#)
[Factsheet on the Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Italy](#)
[Factsheet on the Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Europe](#)





Individual reports

Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Europe:

[Download the report in English](#)

[Download the report in Dutch](#)

Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Germany:

[Download the report in English](#)

[Download the report in German](#)

Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Italy:

[Download the report in English](#)

[Download the report in Romanian](#)

[Download the report in Italian](#)

Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Denmark:

[Download the report in English](#)

[Download the report in Danish](#)

Participation of Migrant Women in Political and Democratic Life in Serbia:

[Download the report in English](#)

[Download the report in Serbian](#)

4.b. Survey among 1400 migrants in Spain regarding political and democratic participation

This ambitious study conducted by Red Latinas focused on a quantitative survey, completed by migrants over 18 years of age, residing in Spain. A total of 1,351 questionnaires were completed. The study was complemented with qualitative analysis. It also provided an analysis of the legal rights to participation in European countries and the legal barriers that migrants face in accessing it. The main conclusions are that more information and education will help lessen barriers related to migrant's administrative-legal status or their non-recognition as interlocutors in projects or participation actions.

The survey, which is investigation into the Spanish situation looks at three relevant aspects: how the right to vote of foreigners in Spain are regulated; what their voting intentions are; and what specific barriers prevent migrant women from participating in political life.

This exploration aims to increase the participation of migrant women in Spain, specifically through:

- Increasing understanding among migrant women, their associations, and others about the level of inclusion of migrant women in democratic life in Spain and what the barriers are from a migrant woman's perspective.
- Diagnosing potential needs that migrant and refugee women in Spain might have relating to their political training or participation.
- Identifying the (non-formal) educational needs relating to the political participation of migrant and refugee women in order to design appropriate training to fulfil these needs.

The Report: [La participación de las mujeres migrantes en la vida democrática. Estudio de caso España](#) (Spanish version). [Expanding Tools in Addressing Barriers for Migrant Women to Participate in Democratic life. Spain Case Study](#) (English).

4.c. Transnational Training events on strategic communication and community approaches

The **first transnational training** was held on 21st and 22nd March 2022. It addressed effective communication and outreach methodologies -storytelling, strategic communication in particular online strategies for advocacy and lobbying, especially towards EU institutions. Part of the discussion was an introduction of policies and institutional processes at the EU, especially the European Parliament, impacting migrant women. 34 activists took part, mostly migrant women and a group of young women, including non-binary person(s).

The first day of the training they were focused on capacity-building sessions on strategic communications, social media, and storytelling. The second day was geared towards deepening each other's understanding of the EU's political process. The importance of migrant women as experts and changemakers was stressed by participants and speakers in the panel discussion with speakers Anila Noor, Founder of [New Women Connectors](#), Alexandra Weerts, Senior Project Coordinator, [Eurocities](#), and Delmy Galeano and María Gálvez Dávil, members of [Red Latinas](#). The group also had engaging and energetic exchanges with migrant women groups based in Brussels, like [Marche Mondiale des Femmes Belgique](#), the migrant women theatre group, [Voiceless](#), and the migrant-women-led association [Collectif Des Femmes](#).

The training concluded with a dialogue session with European Parliament Member Ramona [Strugariu](#), a Romanian politician representing REPER in the Renew Europe Group. WIDE+, [Romanian Women's Lobby \(ROWL\)](#), and the participants presented the activities to promote the rights of migrant women in Europe. MEP Strugariu also prepared a list of responses to questions posed by the group, which had been earlier sent to her. Overall, she agreed with the group that the work, expertise, and experiences of migrant women are important and that they should have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

The report of the transnational training can be read [here](#).

ADVOCACY TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: MEETING WITH MEP RAMONA STRUGARIU



The **second transnational training** was held on 18th and 19th October 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia. Representatives of project partners, activists from the WIDE+ migration and gender working group, members of the Advocacy Group of women with experience in migration gathered around Atina, and other migrant women came together to exchange and learn through a series of interactive workshops using the community of practice. The training brought together 7 members of NGO Atina and 25 participants: 12 representatives from WE-EMPOWER partners and collaborating organizations, 3 members of the Advocacy Group of women with

migration experience, and 10 migrant women actively involved in NGO Atina's activities at the Asylum Center Krnjača in Belgrade.



The second training focused on the critical concept of participation, which is essential for ensuring that everyone, including women migrants and refugees, is involved in the decision-making process. The host organization, Atina, actively integrates migrant women into every stage of their programs—whether it's drafting policy papers, advocating for protocol and procedural changes, or amplifying their voices through civic initiatives. This comprehensive approach to participation should also be adopted by state institutions to more effectively address the unique needs and circumstances of migrant women. While achieving full and meaningful participation can be challenging, both in Serbia and elsewhere, it remains a feasible and vital goal. The group also visited activities of Atina, such as the sandwich shop '[Bagel Bejgl](#)' that supports the combat against human trafficking.

In addition to the two training days, there was an additional training opportunity for all the participants who had come to Atina in Serbia. On 20th October, they could participate in a day-long public event that included exchanging policies and approaches with refugee women who went through asylum in Serbia and relevant Serbian officials. This event also provided further awareness of the collective studies carried out by the project partners.

The report of the transnational training can be read [here](#).

4.d. National training and (online) public events

Face-to-Face Events

=> Next to the second transnational training there was a public event that included a dialogue between migrant women leaders in Serbia and from the WE-EMPOWER project and representatives from different government institutions involved in the process of welcoming female asylum seekers. It was organised by Atina, together with WIDE+ and Oxfam Italia Intercultura, called: "[Report Democracy Embraces Diversity Celebrating and Empowering Migrant Women's Participation](#)" on Friday, October 20, 2023, at "Miljenko Dereta" space in Belgrade, Serbia

=> GADIP in Sweden organized two hybrid events. Firstly, it organized a one-day hybrid conference within the framework of the WE-EMPOWER project. The International Feminist Conference: "[Gender Backlash 3](#)" was held on 29 April in 2022 in English and Swedish for participants across Europe and in Sweden. This conference covered the topics of the progress and effects of the anti-gender movement in Sweden, how we can create a trans-inclusive feminist movement, how mobilization for change was possible with the initiative of feminist movements.

=> GADIP also organized a hybrid event in 2023 on 21 April, on zoom and in Gothenburg, with several project partners from different countries giving a presentation about the project findings, aimed to [empowering migrant women to exercise their democratic rights](#). Estimated were that in total 30 people of which 15 migrant women took part. Women from a migrant background frequently face unique barriers to democratic participation that are often overlooked in integration policies. The conference explored how these barriers can be addressed through community-based learning.

=> [Alianza por la Solidaridad](#) has held their face-to-face multiplier events in Spain. To date, 3 trainings have been organized in 2023 aimed at strengthening the capacities of migrant women in rural areas. The training events have been in Igualeja (Malaga), Huelva, Zafarraya, and Ventas de Zafarraya in Granada. 228 women have participated. They addressed labour rights, immigration, registration, relations with public institutions, entrepreneurship, etc.

Online Events

=> KULU has organized its online series of events, starting on 17 August 2023: "[Tips for strengthening your personal economy](#)," in collaboration with Babaylan Denmark. On 24 August 2023, it held the webinar: "[From arrival to participation: your democratic rights](#)". Finally, on 31 August 2023, the online event was held: "[From storytelling to change: the voices of migrant women](#)".

=> Gabriela Germany offered two [Online Mental Health Training workshops for migrant women, especially BIPOCs](#) (Black, Indigenous, and people of colour), taking place on Tuesday 19 and 26 September 2023, reaching around 30 migrant women. The events offered limited space, allowing the participants to feel safe and share any concerns they want to address. In this brief report, Gabriela Germany reports on a that they organized in September of 2023.



=> Red Latinas hosted the webinar: "[Expanding tools in addressing barriers for migrant women to participate in democratic life](#)", which took place on Thursday, 21 September 2023. This webinar was in Spanish with English interpretation, making international participation possible. In this webinar, the study done by Red Latinas was presented, and a public dialogue was held with three migrant women active in local political processes. There were 31 participants, of which mostly migrant women.

=> A.D.R.I and the Romanian Women's Lobby participated in the first edition of the Feminist Solidarity Forum, held as part of the "GLORIA – Feminism and Strategic Approach to Gender Equality" project. The event 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](#)" where experts from the WE-EMPOWER project group explored essential topics such as women's leadership, feminist solidarity, the political involvement of migrant women, and cyber violence against women in politics. 53 people participated in the event in-person and 83 connected via Zoom; the event was held on 29 and 30 October 2023.

5. COPGendered Project to enhance Gender and Climate Justice

At the end of 2022, WIDE+ could start with leading a consortium of seven organisations to implement a collaboration entitled: "**Gender and Climate Justice: Knowledge for Empowerment**" that is financially supported by the EACEA, as part of the EU Erasmus+ programme. Five of the consortium partners are WIDE+ member organisations ([KULU Gender and Development Denmark](#), [GADIP Sweden](#), [WIDE in Austria](#), [CSCD in Bulgaria](#), [Mundubat in Spain](#)) coupled with partner [LIFE e.V](#) (previously GenderCC).

This project builds up tools, knowledge and methodologies for learners to upskill themselves (in groups, individually or with a teacher) in the relationships between gender inequality and the climate crisis. This includes providing tools for adult education providers. The project will end in November 2025. In the first year of the project the first transnational training event was held and the partners worked hard to prepare the completion a series of briefing papers that provide the conceptual framework for the online learning tool and the training manual that can be utilized for group activities.



While the **briefing papers** were published in 2024, we reference them here as most of the work to complete them was done by all partners in 2023.

The partners and WIDE+ produced an 8-page introductory briefing paper, along with 5 thematic factsheets (each 4 pages) on gender equality and climate justice, available in seven languages (English, German, Bulgarian, Danish, Spanish, French, and Swedish). All are available online in the different languages as standalone or combined learning documents, among others at: www.wideplus.org. The topics were:

- [Gender and Climate Justice](#)
- [Climate Justice, Gender and LGBTIQ](#)
- [Climate Justice, Gender and Energy](#)
- [Climate Justice, Gender and Transport](#)
- [Gender and Climate-Induced Migration](#)
- [Climate Justice, Gender and Extractivism](#)

The first [transnational training](#) took place in Vienna, Austria, on June 2-3, 2023. This training laid the conceptual foundation to the briefing papers, highlighting that the climate crisis is a social and political crisis, not primarily a technological one. There was a highly international audience, including WIDE+ members and speakers from countries beyond the project partners, even outside Europe (images at the next page).

Many speakers stressed the societal dimensions of the climate crisis, such as how the richest people on earth consume the most fossil energy, and how the needs for a green economy lead to more pollution and human rights abuse through mining of rare minerals like Lithium.

As one of the speakers, Christa Wichterich, stated, dominant interpretation and implementation of the green economy can be called a neoliberal turn in sustainability, in which nature has become commodified and part of the current economic model that promotes industrial growth. In particular the current dominant neo-liberal paradigm promotes privatisation and liberalisation of all kinds of goods and services that become part of markets in which profit can be made. This approach is applied as policy solution for making the economy more 'green'. Such narratives are countered by different concepts promoted by civil society including academics such as "de-growth", "sufficiency", or "stable state economy".

Feminists demand that we need to decide collectively what has to shrink and what has to grow: "Feminists do want equality, but we must change the paradigm towards a caring economy which focuses on provisioning and sustaining for future generations. A caring economy implies a right to say "no" to the kind of development which we have now". Wichterich outlined possible features of a feminist approach to climate justice, exemplified with the following example of a Feminist Coalition on the Green New Deal from the US:

1. Intersectional perspective on gender as power relation.
2. Feminist macro- & micro policy puts the case economy at its centre, e.g. fiscal policy & public services.
3. Climate reparations for ecological colonisation.
4. Decolonizing financial structures such as promoting debt justice with debt cancellation.
5. State must serve people, not markets.
6. Challenge production of Eurocentric knowledge & neoliberal economics.
7. Reject greenwashing & false solutions e.g. techno fixes.
8. Reject population growth alarmism => reproductive justice.
9. Community centred, community led development.



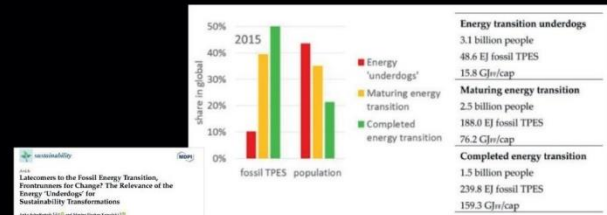
WIDE+ meeting, Vienna, June 2023

Capitalism fosters a permanent reproduction crisis. If it has not been more apparent, it is because the "human catastrophes" it has caused have been historically externalized, been confined to the colonies, thus made invisible or rationalized as effects of cultural backwardness, attachment to misguided traditions, tribalism. This "externalization" continues today, as does the its ideological cover up. The economic and social disintegration many Third World countries are experiencing due to the effects of economic liberalization is rationalized through the revamping of a colonial ideology that blames the victims, relying on the increasing distancing of worlds, and the anxiety about others created by the apparent diminishing of resources.

Federici, 2010: the-reproduction-of-labour-power-in-the-global-economy-marxist-theory-and-the-unfinished-feminist-revolution/

Federici (2010): "The reproduction of labour-power in the global economy, Marxist theory and the unfinished feminist revolution", <https://caringlabor.wordpress.com/2010/10/25/silvia-federici-the-reproduction-of-labour-power-in-the-global-economy-marxist-theory-and-the-unfinished-feminist-revolution/>

● We are firmly in the grips of a fossil energy system



6. FINDHR Project: reduce intersectional gendered discrimination in Algorithmic hiring

WIDE+ is part of a consortium to implement is a 3-year research and innovation project. It is in collaboration developing methods, algorithms, and training for an intersectional anti-discrimination approach that is contextualized within the technical, legal, and ethical problems of algorithmic hiring, and are applicable to a broad class of applications involving human recommendation. This project started in November 2022.

FINDHR (Fairness and Intersectional Non-Discrimination in Human Recommendation) aims to push beyond current general guides to address discrimination when using online machines (algorithms) to help select candidates for jobs. Algorithm tools are increasingly common in hiring practices in Europe. Pre-hiring assessment tools can be used by companies or recruitment agencies in each step of the selection process, for example video interviewing and assessment. Common are [applicant tracking systems](#) in which applicants provide information into an online system, for example a CV and motivation letter, that is being analysed by the tool and ranked, thus leading to suggestions for pre-selection.

Intuitively some may expect that computer generated decisions are neutral in contrast to human decision making. However, many examples and research has confirmed that biases are common with algorithms as well. This means that when using algorithms in online hiring people with certain characteristics that have proven to face more discrimination, might be discrimination against again, even if it is not intentional. Online machines can reproduce discrimination for example around being a woman, having a certain ethnicity or having a certain age, or all of the three combined.

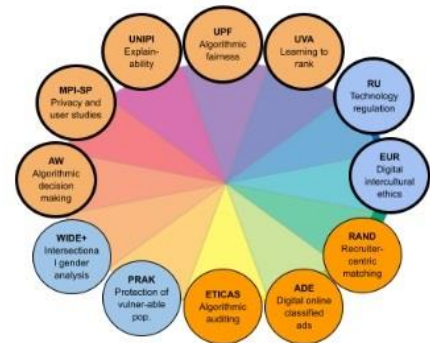
Discriminatory biases have been documented across almost all applied domains of Artificial Intelligence (Feuerriegel S, Dolata M, Schwabe G, 'Fair AI', in 'Business and Information Systems Engineering 62', 2020). It is more and more acknowledged that algorithmic hiring systems do this too, reproducing and amplifying pre-existing discriminatory entry barriers into the labour market. The FINDHR project is designed to create practical integrated solutions to tackle this issue.

The project is offering training, software, documentation library and guiding documents. WIDE+'s role is to help collect and integrate perspectives from underrepresented groups on the labour market into the guides and tools. The gendered inequality of labour is well documented, also through the work of WIDE+ and members. In the past decades the intersectional dimension of this inequality has become more visible through research and activism. Women are not a homogeneous groups and discrimination based on gender and for example ethnicity is not a mere issue of adding one discrimination with the other. Patterns of intersections can lead to completely new forms of (in)equality. In this project WIDE+ is bringing a practical implementation to intersectional discrimination by enabling focus group research of intersections within women, some men and other genders.

This project is supported by the European Union's [Horizon Europe Programme](#) (grant agreement No 101070212), under the call [HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-24](#) ("Tackling gender, race and other biases in Artificial Intelligence"). The consortium includes leaders in algorithmic fairness and explainability research (UPF, UVA, UNIPI, MPI-SP), pioneers in the auditing of digital services (AW, ETICAS), and two industry partners that are leaders in their respective markets (ADE, RAND), complemented by experts in technology regulation (RU) and cross-cultural digital ethics (UU), and two NGOs dedicated to fighting discrimination (WIDE+ and PRAK). WIDE+ is bringing in its gender expertise and network.

Consortium

- **Coordinator** Carlos Castillo (ICREA Research Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
- 6 **academic** partners (Pompeu Fabra Univ., Univ. Pisa, Univ. Amsterdam, MPI-SP, Radboud, Erasmus Univ. Rotterdam)
- 4 **civil society** partners (AlgorithmWatch Switzerland, Women in Development Europe, Praxis in Development Europe, Praxis)
- 3 **industry** partners ([Adevinta/Infojobs](#), Randstad, ETICAS)



A complete overview of all activities can be found at: www.findhr.eu. WIDE+ took part in all online and face to face planning meetings, and provided support and advice to different activities, such as the collection of CVs for creating synthetic data.

In 2023 WIDE+ started to prepare one of its three major tasks it has a coordination role towards: ensuring 21 focus group sessions in 6 of the 7 different countries to be held in 2024. These will be organised with the Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) approach. For the development of concrete software tools, guidance, and policy recommendations, the opinions and experiences of those people that are most likely being discriminated against in the hiring process are sought through the FPAR sessions.

6.1 Experts Reports

One of the other three main tasks, planned for 2023, was successfully completed which were the completion of three **expert reports**. The reports set out to inform FINDHR consortium partners and a larger audience about experiences, perspectives and patterns of discrimination experienced by underrepresented groups when applying in relation to AI tools. The reports were meant to encourage a deeper understanding through fieldwork from experts that have experience of working with marginalised and/or underrepresented group(s) and who are used to working with an intersectional perspective. WIDE+ and consortium partners PRAKSIS in collaboration with UPF (and the FINDHR advisory board helping with the selection) launched a call for 3 expert reports in May.

In December of 2023 the expert reports were ready and could they share their results. All three expert reports were published at: <https://findhr.eu/findhr-expert-reports/>

The report by César Rosales and his team investigates the challenges faced by groups in situations of vulnerability and marginalization, particularly **(women) migrants of Latin American origin seeking employment in Spain, throughout the (online) hiring process**. Additionally, it offers an assessment on whether online platforms and recruiters incorporate explicit ethical approaches into their product and service designs to prevent discriminatory practices.

The research finds that most of the challenges the consulted population face take place in offline settings, i.e. before they interact with the internet and web applications. Derived from this, most of the participants in the field work, especially migrant women, limit their use of digital technologies to social media platforms, job search engines and websites to look for employment, and do not even have the opportunity to engage with more sophisticated Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) that might use machine learning algorithms to conduct rankings, interview analysis or job performance prediction.



Jie Liang Lin provided through a Participatory Action Research methodology a very **in-depth analysis of careers of underrepresented groups in the tech sector working in Berlin**. Her research confirms the observations of Rosales of the very felt offline barriers by migrants. And she found the importance of another characteristic in interaction with for example gender: age and ageism in the German tech sector.

She provided concrete recommendation around algorithmic hiring with the standards set by the EU Anti-Discrimination Directive and GDPR (EU's General Data Protection Regulation), such as the difficulty of dealing with proxies for protected sensitive data. People have more rights over their personal data with the GDPR, and when they apply online a company or institution can only ask

for personal information that is voluntary provided. However, a lot of personal information is very difficult to hide, like age, gender and ethnicity. There is extensive research demonstrating that online applying with foreign-sounding names lead to lower ranking scores, regardless of the associated level of education and experience. A name is a proxy for example ethnicity. In some European countries it is also customary to ask for a passport photo, which can also be a proxy. The research also showed how people from underrepresented groups try to manage information on personal characteristics and how AI managed selection processes respond to such information in the view of jobseekers (image is quote from report by Jie Liang Lin).

Paksy Plackis-Cheng and her team did two experiments and focus groups discussions, leading to **finding discrepancies on how people, especially women, with a migrant background living in Germany were ranked with other candidates** through an experienced recruiter/AI comparison and through synthetic data. The experiments suggest biases that ATS raises serious concerns that candidates may be screened out because of characteristics in their applications that relate to their identities rather than to the needs of the job.

7. Trade And Gender Working Group

This thematic Working Group (WG) monitors EU trade policy from a feminist perspective, develops public positions and analysis on EU trade and gender issues, build capacity of civil society and policy makers and promote exchange between the EU and civil society in the Global South. It is part of different global and regional civil society alliances.

The Group is a mixture of WIDE+ experts, international experts, Civil Society and Trade Unionists representatives. It welcomes non-members to join the group. The group meets mostly through zoom with an active e-list. The Group is a steering group member of the Gender Trade Coalition. The group is part of WIDE+ and the previous incarnation of the WIDE had also an active focus on trade policy from a feminist perspective since the forming of the World Trade Association at the end of the nineties.

Lives of many women and other genders are impacted by the internal and external (trade) rules which the EU and other European countries have come to agreements about. They are renegotiated through new trade agreements and other economic policies (e.g. monetary and the internal market policies).

7.1 Activities in 2023

A key milestone for 2023 was that WIDE+ WG joined as first feminist women's-led association the Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs), which are civil society driven monitoring groups for trade agreements with the EU. There are currently 12 DAGs for bilateral or multilateral trade agreements with the EU; they are mostly tasked to monitor the Trade Sustainable Chapters of the trade agreements, with a representation at the EU side and one at the side of the partner country (or countries). DAGs are formal bodies in which business, trade unions and employer groups as well as civil society from the EU and the partner countries come together to provide advice to the governments on the implementation of decent work, environmental and any other human rights related standards that are included in the particular trade agreement.

Up to 2023 there was no feminist association listed as a member to any DAG. WIDE+, represented by Edmé Dominguez and Gea Meijers, were approved for the EU-Canada DAG, the DAG for the EU-Central American region, and the DAG with Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Joining the DAGs mean joining digitally or face to face one or two meetings per year, and some general meetings, as well as preparatory meetings. The DAGs come with a statement after each meeting and in some instances engages in some action notably the organising of civil society events.



The WG aims to connect women's rights civil society groups to the DAGs to ensure their voices are heard. With this goal in mind, Edmé Domínguez went to 15th the Feminist Encuentro (see image on previous page) to strengthen and enlarge our network of contacts in the region for our work in the two EU Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) with countries in Latin and Central America.

Following the tradition established in 1981 in Bogota, the 15th Feminist Encuentro of Latin America (EFLAC) took place in El Salvador at the end of last November, with about 1700 participants. These feminist forums that take place every 3 years, gather grassroots groups from the whole continent to discuss all relevant themes affecting the movement(s) and it shapes new strategies. Read the report here: <https://wideplus.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report-WIDE-on-15-EFLAC-in-El-Salvador-.pdf>.

WIDE+ also took part and was a co-organizer to several Trade Justice Events on the margins of the EU CELAC Summit to 'Stop the EU-Mexico and EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreements' On 17 and 18 July several WIDE+ members participated online and face to face. The meetings brought many activists across Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. **People can re-watch the [public event in the European Parliament](#) with many testimonies from experts and activists in the ECLAC countries.** Gea Meijers participated in the two-days event. See for more information: <https://s2bnetwork.org/agenda-for-the-conference-in-the-european-parliament-17-july-2023/>.



WIDE+ also contributed to the position paper by the EU-LAC Working Group: "Latin America Caribbean and the EU: towards a real renewed partnership". This position paper outlines the contours of an alternative, environmentally sustainable, and human rights-based partnership between the EU and CELAC countries. It asks to establish a real renewed political partnership that promotes an open civic space for a vibrant democracy. Such partnership should move towards an EU-LAC agenda that puts the fight against inequalities at its centre as well as a Green and Just Transition for both regions. This means just and sustainable investment and trade agreements. For the paper: <https://wideplus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Position-Paper-EULAC-WG-1.pdf>.

There was also a webinar that WIDE+ supported, entitled: "Indigenous struggle against the white gold rush in the Andes" (in English and Spanish). Held on 27 July, it offers an online dialogue with Ercilia Araya Altamirano, an indigenous human rights activist, Ariel León Bacián, a lawyer, and WIDE+ member Patricia Muñoz Cabrera about the threat of Europe's energy transition to the ecosystems and livelihoods of indigenous people and the fight for their rights, focusing on Chile. It is organized by WIDE+ caucus member WIDE in Austria. More information: <https://wide-netzwerk.at/veranstaltung/webinar-indigenous-struggle-against-the-white-gold-rush-in-the-andes/>.



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WIDE+ also joined 146 undersigned [organisations](#) from around the world to call on the EU to address the alarming lack of an approach to tackle gendered intersectional discrimination in the proposed due diligence directive. The European Commission's [proposal](#) for a directive could represent a groundbreaking step forward in minimizing the negative impacts of businesses. However, the draft text released in the first half of last year, fails to integrate a gender lens and risks leaving women behind among other shortcomings.

WIDE+ has been an active member of the EU-Mexico Civil Society alliance since 2022. In 2023 they prepared an [open letter](#) from the network EU-Mexico the key shortcomings are listed. If the modernized agreement will be ratified new trading rules will cause additional harm. Women will bear the brunt of this. Among others, the agreement will reinforce the total impunity of foreign companies in their dealings with the environment and workers' rights. Women will experience increased harm from pollution, precariousness, and gender-based violence.

7.2 Activities in 2022

In terms of its gender and trade work, WIDE+ co-organized a webinar series with three events on the impacts of free trade between the EU and Mexico, providing a critical light on the modernisation of the EU-Mexico FTA that is proposed. The webinars are available in different languages:

- Recording available Webseminar: "[Mujeres Derechos Humanos, Violencia, Feminicidios, Trata de personas, migración militarización / Women's human rights: violence, feminicides, trafficking, migration and militarization](#)", 19 October 2022 (in English and Spanish).
- Webseminar available: "[Mujeres indígenas-campesinas, tierras territorios, agua, extractivismo, medio ambiente / Indigenous and peasant women, the land, extractivism, and the environment](#)", 13 October 2022 (in English and Spanish).
- Webseminar recording available: "[Mujeres trabajadoras en industrias y campo / Women working in the \(agro-\)industries](#)", held on 6 October 2022 (in English and Spanish).

Another highlight was that WIDE+ also presented with WO=MEN a paper during the first WTO Congress on Gender and Trade. The World Trade Organization (WTO) held its first [Congress on Gender](#). WIDE+ gender and trade WG members with the secretariat, participated in the event. WIDE+ organized a civil society strategy meeting with Caroline Dommen, Senior Associate at the IISD, at the [IISD | L'ESPACE](#) during the evening of 6 December.



WIDE+ (Gea Meijers) and WO=MEN (Dewi Keppy) presented a joint research paper during the research panel on "Crafting gender-responsive trade policies and agreements". Researching the EU trade policy with its different engagement mechanisms, the paper concludes that participation of civil society is seen to be limited at the level of token participation. However civil society is able to have some impact on the policy, albeit women's rights organisations are much less present. This paper will be published soon - watch this space!

On the occasion of the European Gender Equality Week held by the European Parliament, the Committee on International Trade (INTA) introduced in its session on 25 October 2022 the topic of trade and gender. It assessed the current state of affairs within EU trade policy and discussed which steps could be taken. Three experts were invited to provide their insights and experience, including Gea Meijers, coordinator of Women in Development Europe+ (WIDE+).

[Read the report of the meeting](#) by Lucía Tapia Pesquera. [Read the presentation by Gea Meijers](#) on behalf of the WIDE+ Gender and Trade WG.

Other Activities:

- WIDE+ contributed to the UNCTAD 15th Gender and Development statement: <https://wideplus.org/2021/09/22/new-gender-trade-coalitions-statement-on-the-unctad-15th-mandate-with-the-support-of-wide/>
- WIDE+ has contributed to this [open letter to the WTO](#) from the [Gender and Trade Coalition \(GTC\)](#), a network of more than 300 women's rights organisations and allies that puts forward feminist trade analysis and advocates for equitable trade policy.
- WIDE+ gender and trade working group has undersigned this [letter](#) to ask of the Mexican government to continue supporting the position of many low and middle income countries demanding a TRIPS waiver. Such a waiver would allow the cheap and increased production of vaccines and all other medicines relating to COVID-19 and be an effective step towards eradicating vaccine apartheid.
- WIDE+ signed on the Statement on ISDS (Investor-state dispute settlement) and Climate, ahead COP27: see the letter [here](#).

8. Migration and Gender Working Group

While the WE-EMPOWER project took in a lot of energy from the migration and gender working group (WG) the WG continued after its start to organise or participate in actions separate from the WE-EMPOWER project.

8.1 Activities in 2023

On 6 June 2023, on behalf of WIDE+ and the network's Migration and Gender working group, Nurhidayah Hassan, the WG's programme coordinator, had the opportunity to speak at the European Parliament for an event on "Feminist Receptions, Transforming Together: Border Contexts and Welcome Models for Migrant Women, Adolescents and Children in Europe and Mesoamerica".



The event was organised by WIDE+ member, [Creación Positiva](#), with its partners, [Almena Cooperative Feminista](#) and [Formación y Capacitación AC](#), or [FOCA AC](#), along with Member of European Parliament Diana Riba i Giner (from the Greens/EFA political group), within the framework of the project, "[Acogidas Feministas: Transformamos Juntas](#)" ([Feminist Receptions: Let's Transform Together](#)"). One of the objectives of the event is to raise awareness of the situation at the borders and in the migration, refugee, and asylum contexts for women in both European and in

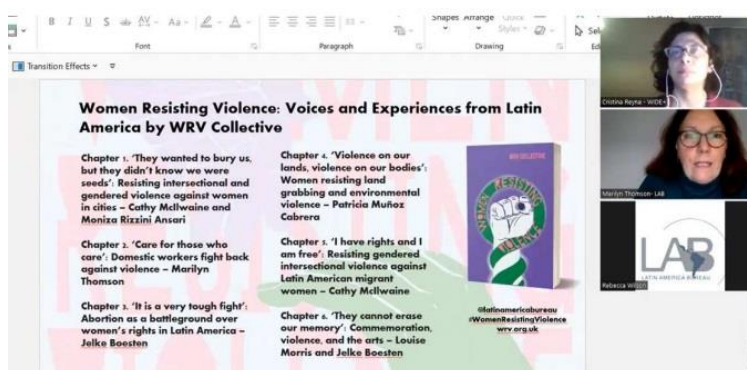
the central Mexico-Guatemala corridor. While the two migration contexts are different, the goal is to also share good practices in addressing the reception of migrant women from an intersectional, intercultural, and anti-racist feminist perspective. To read more on WIDE+ and the other speakers' interventions, go to this [link](#).

Khaoula Hammami represented WIDE+ in the 8th European Migration Forum that took place on 4 and 5 December 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. The Forum is an annual event in which the EU invites civil society to reflect on a theme relating to migration.

In the beginning of the year, WIDE+ completed a webinar and reached out to the European Parliament with a letter of recommendations, both around addressing gender-based violence against migrant women. It also published its final report of the 2,5-year collaborative project that many gender and migration WG-members were involved in. It is an interesting read to find out what (migrant-)women-led associations and groups can achieve together and in their countries.

The report covers the summary of the project, "Expanding spaces for capacity-building and exchange to strengthen migrant women movement-building across Europe", funded by [Open Society Foundations](#). The main aim of this project has been to strengthen European Feminist movement-building at the national level for migrant women through creating and facilitating transnational and national spaces for capacity building and dialogue as well as increasing visibility. The project had been carried out by [NGO Atina](#) in Serbia, [Red Latinas](#), [Mujeres Con Voz](#), [Alianza por La Solidaridad](#) in Spain, [International Women Space](#) and [Gabriela](#) in Germany, [GADIP](#) in Sweden, [KULU Women and Development Denmark](#) and [WO-MI](#) in Denmark, [Voice of all Women](#) in the Netherlands, [Chaska International](#) in Belgium, and [ADRI Association](#) in Italy.

On 26 January 2023, WIDE+, together with [Latin America Bureau \(LAB\)](#) organised a webinar on "[Gender-Based Violence and Resistance of Migrant Women in Europe](#)". The goal of the webinar is to reflect on the ways migrant women resist this violence and the European legal and policy frameworks around GBV. The recording is available in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#). The webinar's speakers were Marilyn Thomson from LAB (UK), Silvina Monteros Obelar from Red Latinas (Spain), Jennifer Kamau from International Women Space (Germany) and Elizabeth Jiménez-Yáñez from Latin American Women's Rights Service (UK). It was moderated by Cristina Reyna, WIDE+ member and gender expert. WIDE+ summarised the main takeaways from the speakers – you can read it [here](#).



The WIDE+ secretariat also sent a letter to the European Parliament, namely to the rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs of the [EU Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#). This directive was proposed by the European Commission in 2022 and will be finalised sometime this year. Our position statement highlights the importance of adopting a stronger intersectional approach when tackling gender-based violence. And we also want to stress the importance of language when addressing the increased incidence of violence and barriers faced by migrant women. Read the letter [here](#).

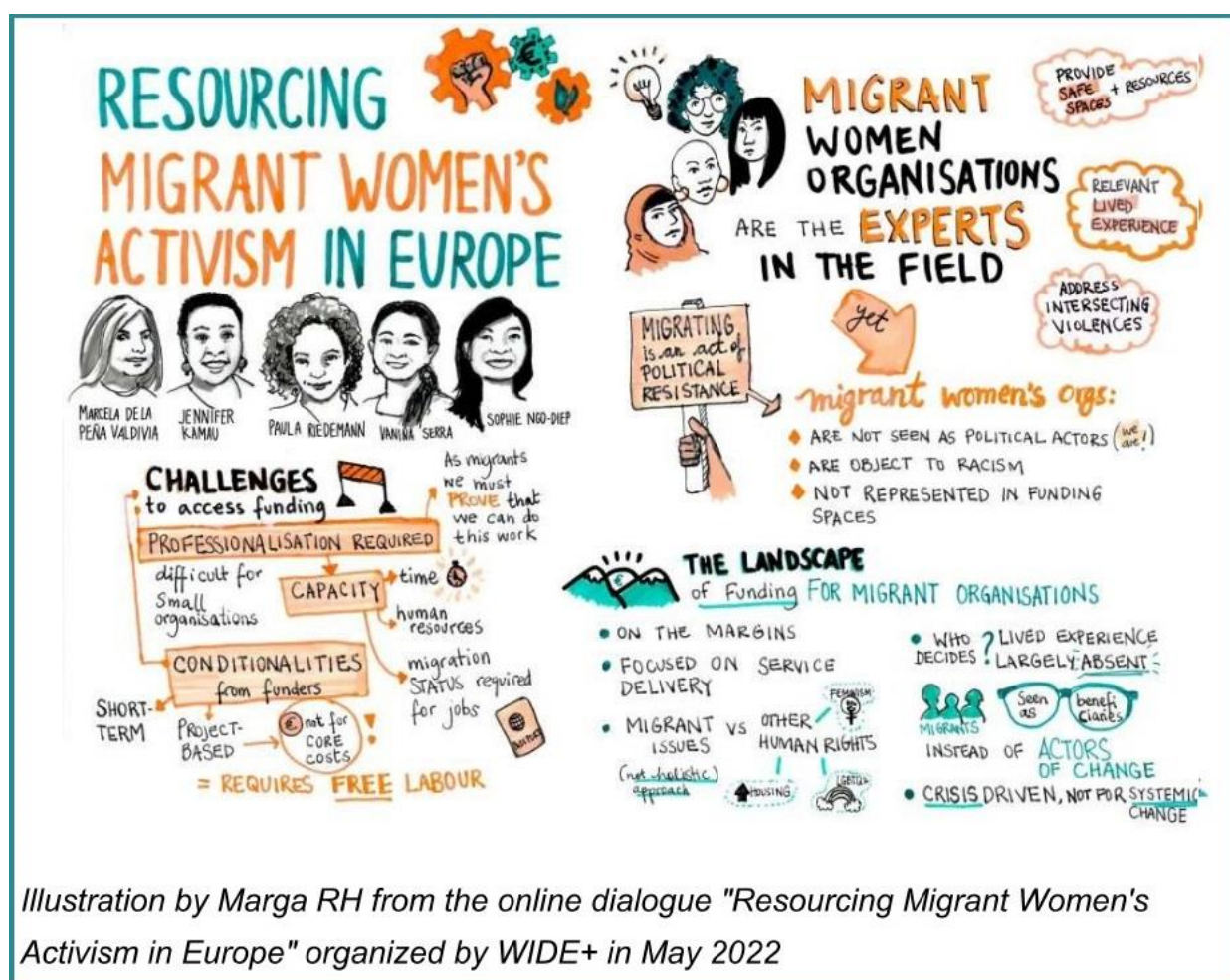
8.2 Activities in 2022



WIDE+ attended 7th [European Migration Forum \(EMF\)](#) on 20-21 October, organised by the European Commission (EC) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Nurhidayah Hassan (on the left, with WIDE+ member Marcela de la Peña Valdivia) represented WIDE+. This year's EMF focused on the theme of young migrants and their role in migration integration in Europe. While topics like youth participation in the labour market and education pathways for young migrants were vibrantly discussed, one of the most evident concerns raised by participants during the meeting was the EU's double standards when it comes to the treatment of refugees from Ukraine versus those from other backgrounds. Another element missing in the 2-day discussion is a gender lens on youth and migration policies. Read the full blogpost [here](#).

A major highlight of the year was the publication of WIDE+ paper: **"Marginalizing Migrant Women's Associations in EU Policies Tracking EU Funds"**, which provided a study and review of funding allocated to migrant women and migrant-women-led associations.

WIDE+ made this review as the issue of funding for women's organizations, particularly for migrant women associations, is a recurring topic amongst members of the network. While there is available EU-level funding to advance gender equality, the financial flows simply do not reach civil society, women's organizations, and migrant women associations. Since there is limited gender-related data to fully assess EU's budget allocations, this paper reviews several sources that have looked at EU-level funds. This paper thus synthesizes the key findings that are relevant for understanding financial flows reaching, or not reaching, migrant women associations.



The launch of the publication was paired with an online dialogue on resourcing of migrant women's associations between representatives of self-organised migrant women groups and private foundations. The online Dialogue: **"Resourcing Migrant Women's Activism in Europe"**, was held on 10 May 2022. The recording is available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

The online dialogue was a rich exchange between migrant women leaders and staff members at private foundations. Speakers included Jennifer Kamau, co-founder of [International Women Space \(IWS\)](#); Marcela de la Peña Valdivia, the coordinator for [La Marche Mondiale des Femmes Belgique](#); Vanina Serra, senior programme officer at [Mama Cash](#) and Sophie Ngo-Diep, from the [European Programme for Integration and Migration \(EPIM\)](#). It was moderated by Paula Riedemann, programme manager at [Calala Women's Fund](#).

In the discussion, both migrant women leaders, Jennifer and Marcela raised issues around the immense complexities of fundraising for migrant women associations. When funding is available, it is rarely, almost never, earmarked for core funding, which in turn sorely limits the vital work of migrant women in supporting their communities. Migrant women groups like IWS provide support to migrant women, especially those in precarious positions, given the sheer failure of the state to provide basic needs for marginalized groups of women. Vanina highlighted the work of Mama Cash in supporting small and unregistered groups but acknowledged that more can be done in making flexible funds available to support migrant women's activism. Sophie concurred and offered ideas that can improve the representation of migrant women in grantmaking spaces.

To complete the focus on funding to migrant women and migrant women association, a letter was sent to Members of the European Parliament from the FEMM and LIBE Committees, and the Human Rights Sub-Committee to highlight the lack of priority in EU policymaking when it comes to the promoting the rights of migrant women.

This letter outlines **the intersecting struggles of racism, xenophobia, and sexism that migrant women grapple with** in Europe. It also raises the multiple **challenges of migrant women associations in fundraising** to continue the vital work they do in supporting their communities and advocating for their human rights. Finally, the letter demands for **the inclusion of migrant women in policymaking processes**. Through the letter, WIDE+ invites further engagement with the various MEPs on these committees to discuss this urgent issue of migrant women's human rights in Europe. Read the full letter [here](#).

There were two other activities in 2022. A webinar was organised by Red Latinas and supported by WIDE+. There is a [Video available of the Webinar, "Weaving Politics Together: Stories of Collective Resistance of Migrant Women in Europe"](#), held on 24 February 2022. "Migrant women are not vulnerable, we are vulnerabilised!". This is the common thread that tied all the different interventions of the speakers for this webinar. This online dialogue session further discussed the political strategies of migrant women in Europe.

And to commemorate International Women's Day, the working group made a video highlighting the links between sustainability, gender equality and migration. The group asked attention for the leadership of migrant women in Europe and beyond, and how migrant women need to be meaningfully included in all stages of the policy making processes for a future that is sustainable.

The video: <https://wideplus.org/featured/throwback-video/wide-international-womens-day-2022-message-mp4/>



9. Feminist Movement Building Working Group

The WIDE+ Feminist Movement Building Working Group works together to provide **spaces for transnational feminist collaboration and reflection in Europe** on key themes and questions we are faced with at this moment, such as: "how to make our feminist visions heard in public spaces, while being protected from online violence and restrictions from politicians?". The backlashes that feminists face in connection to attacks on democracy, civic spaces, LGBTQI* rights, denial of people's made climate crisis, and growing nationalist narratives that promote war, are issues that worry us and that are topics for further reflection.

The aim of the working group is to contribute to collective power among feminists in their activism to pushback to these challenges, in particular promoting transnational solidarity. A returning thread is discussing global developments in connection to trends in Europe.

9.1 Activities in 2023

The Working Group reduced its activism in 2023. It focused most of the year on formulating a manageable proposal for a large [European Feminist Forum that we aim for 2024](#). It tried to fundraise for such an activity.

The limitations in capacity also resulted in only sharing information about solidary actions to stop the war against Gaza. WIDE+ was not able to formulate a collective statement on the role of the EU. We believe that current political and economic positioning has a bigger impact towards to fostering continuation of violence instead of fostering a halt of violence.

As part of our objective to create and contribute to transnational spaces for feminist strategizing, WIDE+ participated digitally in the first transnational FIERCE lab. [FIERCE](#) is an EU funded collaboration between mostly universities to do research around anti-gender movements and promote feminist movement building.

WIDE+ member Jennifer Ramme invited members and partners of the network to a lecture series hosted by the European University Viadrina, titled: **'Gender and Sexuality in (Post)Socialist Europe and the Validity of "East/West Divides". Diverging Perceptions from Difference to Entanglement'**. WIDE+ partnered to make the last three of the series hybrid. The series started on 24 October with 4 events in 2021 and also concluded in cooperation with IFES. WIDE+ partnered for the following webinars:

- Webinar: "Polish Communist Women in the Long Sixties: What Is Left of Their Experience for Leftist Feminism in Today's Poland?", Monday 9 January 2023, in ENG/ESP.
- Webinar: "Queer Encounters with Communist Power: Non-Heterosexual Lives and the State in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989", Monday 23 January 2023, ENG
- Upcoming online dialogue: "LGBTQ and Queer lives and struggles in the Ukraine", 5.15-8.00 PM, Monday 30 January 2023, ENG/ESP.

9.2 Activities in 2022

A key focus of WIDE+ was the war of the Russian regime against Ukraine and the growing authoritarianism in the region, in particular Belarus. In the past year WIDE+ (co-)organized 7 online events with Belarusian feminists, pacifist feminists in Russia, other feminists in Ukraine, feminist peace activists such as from Colombia and former Yugoslavia and feminist activists in the South.

This line of work also resulted in a **public letter to European Politicians to provide our feminist recommendations around the invasion of Ukraine**. WIDE+ is concerned that this war by Russia and other armed conflict combined with the spiral of armament will lead to a mindset in which decision-makers see increased warfare as the only option forward. Measures that promote peace remain essential, as the EU needs to strategise for the long-term future.

Peace must be achieved within a rights-based framework of human and ecological security, decent work and living conditions, access to democratic governance for everyone and equality from a gendered intersectional perspective.

And it is very important for WIDE+ to enable migrant (refugee, trafficked, undocumented, etc.) women and gender nonconforming persons to speak out and analyse the systemic discrimination faced by them. The war against Ukraine stressed the importance to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, and address (sexual) gender-based violence. It also showed that it is possible for EU member states to swiftly respond to new refugee women and help them to access work, safe accommodation and financial support. We called on member states to enable all migrant women to access these basic rights.

Roberta Metsola, the president of the EU Parliament responded to WIDE+'s letter to promote peace in Ukraine and beyond. In the letter she suggests that the Parliament agrees with many of our recommendations, in particular stressing the important role of women and local civil society in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and in peacebuilding. She responds: *"The European Parliament strongly agrees that there can be no promotion of peace, nor peace building, without taking gender-equality into account both in the short- and long-term measures to respond to conflict situations"*.

The letter to the European Parliament on behalf of our network and the reply: <https://wideplus.org/2022/06/04/wide-position-to-european-policymakers-to-promote-peace-in-ukraine-and-beyond/>,

<https://wideplus.org/2022/07/09/response-from-the-president-of-the-eu-parliament-on-wide-letter-regarding-the-war-against-ukraine/>

Online Events

WIDE+ promote(d) ongoing solidarity with feminists in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. They are doing an amazing job under very difficult circumstances. On 8 March 2022, in solidarity with women rights activists in Ukraine, Gender Concerns International, in support with WIDE+ and the Humanity Hub organized an online event that serves as a platform for the voices of activists. It made visible their bravery, resilience and strength. And calls upon supporters and well-wishers to come forward and stand with the women activists of Ukraine.



Webseminar: "How women and feminists in Belarus became enemies of the state"

15 March, 6-7.30 PM CET, In English

A conversation with Olga Karatch,
Head of the Civic Campaign "Our House",
journalist and former politician.

Webseminar: Revolutionaries, refugees and "aggressors", women in Belarus one and a half year of resistance to the state violence

16 March, 6-8.00 PM CET, In English

With:

- Nika - a women's rights activist, lives in Belarus.
- Daria - a volunteer and a campaigner against domestic violence. A refugee who had to flee first to Ukraine because of the state repressions in Belarus and then to Poland, because of the war in Ukraine.
- Natalia - a member of the Belarusian diaspora in Poland.

In March WIDE+ also partnered up with WIDE+ member GADIP in Sweden and (co-)organized two webinars on 15 & 16 March 2022 in English (with translation from and to Russian).

On 15 March 2022, WIDE+ Board member, Edmé Dominguez had a conversation with Olga Karach, the Head of the Civic Campaign "Our House, journalist and former politician, on "How women and feminists in Belarus became enemies of the state". The webinar recording is available [here](#), where you would also find her presentation.

In her presentation, Olga explained how women, including many feminists, have been brutally oppressed under the Lukashenko regime. There has been widespread torture and inhumane treatment of women who have been detained and/or imprisoned. According to Olga, the systemic and strong repression of women is based on an ideological struggle between the new world of gender equality and the old world, resulting in much social injustice for women in Belarus. Women struggle to resist the patriarchal model imposed by Lukashenko, whose regime has deprived women of both choice and voice. Women and feminists have been very active in the peaceful initiatives for a democratic Belarus that is free from violence and terror.

In the second webinar "Violence, Resistance and the State: women in Belarus", women from Belarus reflected on their journeys.

Being a Russian feminist nowadays means not only oppression from the state but also isolation and discrimination from outside Russia. How do four different women activists that are against the war in Ukraine deal with this? This was the topic of our webinar on 21 June with four activists living in Russia. It shared their stories and provided answers to questions from the participants. One can read here the report: ["Voices of \(anti-war\) feminists from Russia today"](#).



WIDE+ organized two webinars to reflect on how feminists can promote peace in a context of war and how war is promoted through economic interests. Both webinars were held in September.

- ["A Feminist Perspective on Financing Militarization"](#), with speakers, Heidi Meinzolt, member of the [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#); Anne-Floor Dekker, Programme Manager for Gender, Peace & Security at [WO=MEN](#); and Annemarie Sancar, [Network Coordinator at PeaceWomen Across the Globe](#). Full biographies of speakers are available [here](#). **The Recording.**

The other webinar focused on: ["Learned Lessons from Feminist-led Peace Processes"](#), with speakers, Sonja Lokar, freelance gender expert from Slovenia; Inga Luther, Managing Director of [OWEN - Mobile Academy for Gender Democracy and Promotion of Peace e.V.](#); and Iliana María Colonia Llanos, Peacemaker at [Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres in Valle del Cauca and the Union of Citizens of Colombia](#), Cali section. Full biographies of speakers can be read in the Youtube video description. **The Recording is also available.**

To capture women's voices and lived realities worldwide and to bring feminist analysis to emerging global trends, BFW (BRICS Feminist Watch) in partnership with WIDE+, AIDOS, Focus on the Global South and its members Gen Dev, Inequality Movement, Espaço Feminista, and PWESCR hosted a two part online seminar series on the Impact of the war by Russia against Ukraine on Women Globally. These were also held in September.

The two-part series aimed to bring together women's lived realities and feminist analysis around the world in context of the war in Europe and an increasing militarism worldwide. The events will be a space to raise concerns from diverse perspectives and to build feminist solidarity against the war and disturbing emerging global trends.

- **Online seminar: "The impact of the war in Ukraine on Women Globally: Part 1, Experiences from Europe".** *In English, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian*, Speakers from Ukraine and Russia (*for safety reasons names are withheld*) Moderated by Evgenia Ivanova, WIDE+, with discussant: Edmé Dominguez WIDE+ and GADIP. No recording available.
- ["The Impact of the War in Ukraine on Women Globally, Part 2 - Women's Voices"](#), with speakers, Shreen Abdul Saroor, co-founder of Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF) and Women's Action Network; Hala N. Barakat, founding member and former president of Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE); Dr Yu Xiaogang, Chinese environmentalist; Fabrina Furtado, Professor at the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro; Dr Funeka Yazini April, Human Science Research Council; and discussants, Prof. (retd.) Anuradha Chenoy, Adjunct Faculty in Jindal School of International Affairs; and Mariama Williams, director of the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE) in Jamaica.



Implementing an Intersectional Feminist Approach
series of 4 webseminars

WIDE+ **FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG**
Feminists transforming Economic Development

Webseminar: "Intersectional gender mainstreaming in policy making"

Thursday 27 January 2022 11.00-12.30 CET

Patricia Muñoz-Cabrera, Feminist, global researcher/consultant - equality & intersectionality in international cooperation.

Moana Genevey, Equality and gender expert & author and policy officer at Equinet, the European Network of Equality Bodies.

Sabrina Saase, Researcher, trainer in topics in anti-discrimination and intersectionality, doing a PhD at Technical University Braunschweig with Sigmund Freud University Berlin.

Moderator: Gisela Dütting, Expert in social movements, gender and economic justice, working for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ENG, with translation into ESP and FR

The final online seminar that WIDE+ co-organized in 2022 was the last webinar of a four series event on an intersectional feminist approach. It was held on Thursday 27 January, titled: **"Intersectional gender mainstreaming in policy making"**.

To watch the recording and to check out Sabrina Saase's slides, click [here](#).

10. WIDE+ as a democratic, financially viable and participatory network

WIDE+ continued to function successfully through its governance with feminist principles. It shows that it is possible to foster a culture and structure that is an alternative to more hierarchical structures. For example, WIDE+ caucus and board meetings do not have fixed chairs, but rotating ones. The caucus and board met according to their schedule (for online meetings for the caucus and 6 for the board) and performed their duties. There was a face-to-face meeting held for the caucus with the board members in June 2023.

The network continued to have annual General Assembly online (meetings of the members) where all the work was approved, including the financial accounting. As with previous years, around 20 members were present or represented to review the reports of previous years, hold elections and vote on different proposals.

The financial accounting and volunteer support structure was further developed in 2023 with new guidelines and WIDE+ moved into the HIVE at [Mundo Matongé](#), which offers eco-designed and eco-managed office and meeting spaces to non-profit organisations, NGOs and social enterprises close to the European institutions, including shared office space. WIDE+ was able to keep two part-time secretariat members, Gea Meijers who was in 2023 promoted from coordinator to general coordinator of the network and Nurhidayah Hassan, who was its programme coordinator up to June of 2023, after which she decided to take further steps in her career.

There were some solidarity actions that WIDE+ undertook in the role of the caucus:

- **The [Statement](#): "Marrakech Declaration to End Austerity" has been signed by WIDE+** among many Civil Society Organisations and experts worldwide. Policy-makers in Ministries of Finance and International Financial Institutions across the world continue implementing a set of economic policies that are targeted at slashing public spending, and instead promoting privatizing and deregulating (see the [End Austerity report, 2022](#)). Ordinary people suffer from the results: broken public services, shrinking social protection and pensions, and a cost-of-living crisis. All this human suffering from austerity is unnecessary: there are alternatives. It's time to raise our voices!
- Ahead of the upcoming UN (United Nations) Security Council Open Debate on the implementation of the **UNCHR resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**, in October 2023, WIDE+ is calling with many other networks and associations on all Member States to take immediate action to demand the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in all aspects of peace and security. To read the open letter in full, click [here](#). (Available also in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#))
- The [solidarity statement](#), "**There is no place for anti-trans agendas in the UN**" has been signed by over 500 civil society organisations globally and WIDE+. It expresses grave concerns over the series of harmful statements made and actions taken by Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls in 2023. The Special Rapporteur has persistently advocated for additional obstacles and conditions to legal gender recognition that undermine the rights protections of trans people, rather than calling for bodily autonomy for all.
- [GADIP](#), supported by WIDE+ and [ABF Sweden](#), has organised a hybrid panel discussion on the contributions of **feminist foreign policy** and what actions to take after the dismantlement in Sweden, which was held on 25 May 2023.
- A group of international civil society organisations including WIDE+ has signed [this letter](#) to **reject the US nomination of former MasterCard CEO, to become World Bank president**. Banga, vice-chair of US private equity group General Atlantic and former chief executive of MasterCard until the end of 2020, was nominated by Joe Biden despite

his explicit lack of credentials to lead the World Bank Group towards seriously tackling the generational challenges of climate change and global inequality.

- WIDE+ has undersigned a letter as an act of declaration of solidarity with the uprising in Iran. The letter, initiated by international solidarity association, [Europe Solidaire Sans Frontières](#), is titled, "**Iran: Support for the “Woman, Life, Freedom” Uprising - No to Executions!**".
- A group of like-minded organizations worked collectively to draft a [letter in rejection of the IMF Strategy Toward Mainstreaming Gender](#), approved by the IMF Board on July 22, 2022. WIDE+ has signed this letter in support of its strong message to reject this pink-washing exercise that implies, in real terms, an expansion of the IMF's presence at the national level in developing countries.
- WIDE+ joined the 2022 Sign-On Statement for **Global Week of Action for Justice and Debt Cancellation** that was held in October: <https://debtgwa.net/2022gwa>. Once again, the IMF and the World Bank held their annual meetings, and many associations want to maximize this period to raise ever more strongly our demands around debt justice, particularly the demand to #CancelTheDebt in the face of the economic, public health and climate crises.
- Finally earlier 2022 WIDE+ signed a Civil Society [letter](#), signed over 90 global civil society organizations including many women's rights organizations, to the IMF Board calling for more open and robust consultation to come to its Gender Strategy

The core of WIDE+ is the voluntary work and paid work of many members, partners, and friends and the dedicated and skilled support by its secretariat members. **WIDE+ would like to thank all board members, caucus, secretariat and working group members for their huge contributions and dedication.**

WIDE+ would like to thank the following foundations for their financial support:

- Oak Foundation;
- Foundation Open Society Institute in cooperation with the Human Rights Initiative of the Open Society Foundations;
- The European Union;
- and our members for their contributions.