

**Call for Participants:**  
**Western Balkan Conference for Strengthening Women Role in**  
**Promoting Peace, Cooperation and Networking**

**Date:** 3 days\* May, 2021

**Venue:** Herceg Novi, Montenegro

**Host:** Center for Support of Local and Regional Development (CeP)

**Sponsor:** Western Balkans Fund

The Center for Support of Local and Regional Development from Herceg Novi, Montenegro has initiated a cooperation with partner organizations from Serbia: Center for biopolitical education, BIOPOLIS and Association LIGHT, along with partner from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Center for psychological support SENSUS, Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to **contribute to strengthening women role in promoting peace, reconciliation and cooperation in Western Balkan region through increased women activism and capacity building**, with the support of Western Balkan Fund. Women's groups played a major role in working for peace and reconciliation at local and national levels. Through the history, women used their high status in the family to negotiate peace in their communities and managed to use their influence to maintain constructive dialogue, peace and boost cooperation.

**Background:** World over, the issue of inclusiveness of women, especially in leadership remains a major challenge. To date, women continue to have unequal opportunities as their male counterparts. Key decision making positions, for instance, continues to see fewer women occupying leadership positions. Indeed, very few women have risen to positions such as Vice-presidents, Ministers, Deans and Heads.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5 on Quality Education, and Women and Girl's Empowerment respectively recognise the importance of advancing gender parity in the process of striving to achieve the SDGs.

**Conference for Strengthening Women Role in promoting Peace, Cooperation and Networking in Western Balkans** is one of the platforms and tools supported by WB Fund for the discussion of innovative and creative ways of empowering women, especially young women to reach their full potential and aspire to the more influential positions in their chosen fields. Partner organisations from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia want to bring women across national and regional boundaries together to share knowledge, ideas and strategic management skills required for successful support of women in various leadership positions

## **Aim**

The Western Balkan Women Conference seeks to:

- Create the platform for the presentation of findings on key challenges faced by women in different social, academic or business fields;
- Inspire and empower the next generation of Western Balkan women in STEM to actively and effectively contribute to solving region's Challenges;
- Provide the platform for women in Western Balkans to share their cutting-edge research as a way of inspiring others;
- Build the leadership capacity of women in Western Balkans to drive change and innovation;
- Draw attention to the important role of women of all generations from Western Balkans to interact and cooperate one with other;
- Create the platform for various actors – educators, policy-makers and partners -to debate on pertinent issues related to the promotion of Women in Western Balkan region.

## **Conference Themes and Subthemes**

The Conference Theme is: Strengthening Women Role in promoting Peace, Cooperation and Networking through capacity building and education

WB Conference will cover the following subthemes:

1. Gender concepts: understanding gender roles, their internalization and place in the social environment;
2. Women as decision makers: historical and sociological aspects of women in decision making, exploring the role of women in society and politics;
3. Barriers to women's visibility and participation: exploring the challenges and identifying strategies to break down barriers and participate effectively in social life;
4. Women as holders of intercultural values: historical, sociological and psychological aspects of intercultural and regional cooperation, the role of women in establishing and carrying intercultural values;
5. Women and Education - How is education empowering women (formal and informal education).

## **Activities**

- Presentation of Studies and Research Papers on the Conference themes and subthemes
- Panel Discussions on Topical Issues
- Networking Sessions

## **Expected Participants**

- **Accepted participants are encouraged to prepare their presentation or actively participate in panel discussions;**
- Represent accomplished women in various leadership positions from Western Balkans Region and beyond;
- Represent women academics and researchers in Western Balkans region;
- Represent women in industry, government and partner institutions involved in promoting Western Balkans; or
- Represent men academics, activists and researchers who have high interest in developing and empowering women in Western Balkans Region

## **Sponsorship**

Participants whose applications are accepted will be provided with a roundtrip economy ticket and accommodation at the conference.

## **Event Information**

Date: May, 2021

Venue: Herceg Novi, Montenegro

Host: Center for Support of Local and Regional Development

Registration Link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h4Q3d\\_y15dd1eaqP31Ha5861iMnFy-35sNrGzjVQpbA/viewform?ts=5ffb1b18&edit\\_requested=true&pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h4Q3d_y15dd1eaqP31Ha5861iMnFy-35sNrGzjVQpbA/viewform?ts=5ffb1b18&edit_requested=true&pli=1)

Registration deadline: April, 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

## **Contacts:**

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