



# Project “More Women in European Politics – More Women in 2014”

## Local Action Strategy

### Partner 11

## INSTITUT FOR SOCIAL CREATIVITY

### Slovenia

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## LOCAL STRATEGIES

We began our strategy by selecting the logo



We summed up our strategy in **4 key points**:

1. Efforts for further amendments and changes in the election legislation (Election of Slovenian Members to the European Parliament Act, National Assembly Elections Act, Local Elections Act);
2. Pressure on political parties that they should reach a balanced representation of both genders, regardless of the applicable legal provisions on gender equality in submitting the candidature, and by a concrete formation of lists they classify female and male candidates in such a way that it actually allows a greater eligibility of the underrepresented gender - women;
3. Informing and raising awareness amongst the public about the necessity of a balanced women's and men's representation in the decision-making political bodies, about hidden traps in an individual election system and about the identification of political parties in favour of gender equality;



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4. Encouraging women from various political options to submit their candidature on different levels, training of potential female candidates and the participation in concrete electoral campaigns of female candidates for European Parliament elections.

The common denominator of all these points was spreading and strengthening the consciousness regarding the need for balanced, equal representation of both genders in politics. **Objectives** of our strategy, which we believe we achieved, were:

- to show the differences in the decision taking quality between gender balanced and gender imbalanced decision making bodies with cases of best practice;
- to show how election systems convey the will of female and male voters;
- what actually mean individual places on candidate lists;
- what is the impact of preferential votes (relative preferential vote in European Parliament elections and local municipality council elections for councils whose staff exceeds 11 female and male councillors);
- how to identify a women friendly political party and why to vote for its candidate lists, or female and male candidates.

**Activities** with which we pursued objectives were as follows:

- Informing political parties, women in politics and broader public on the project »More women in European politics.



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More women 2014«:

- Organisation of the project presentation (November 2013),
  - Presentation of the project in the media (October – December 2013)
  - Invitation to political parties that their female representatives participate in the project (November 2013 – January 2014)
- Public invitation to political parties which decide to participate in the European Parliament elections to classify half of the women on the candidate list and a woman also in the 1st place of the candidate list (March 2014).
  - Concrete training and education of the women's group, potential female candidates in the European and local elections (January – March 2014)
  - Preparation of tools to sensibilise the public, especially young people:
    - Setting up the Facebook site (October 2013)
    - Competition for a short film about gender equality which we will present during the campaign. Positive effects of this action.

The listed activities were mainly carried out prior to formation of candidate lists; activities we carried out after formation of lists were as follows:

- Analysis of candidate lists

*There were 16 political subjects that submitted the candidate list. 6 list coming from 6 parliamentary political parties, 10 coming from*



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*non-parliamentary or groups of citizens. We had some very exotic lists like for example a list called “dream job”. But maybe being MEP is not so dreamy after all since the list was not full, meaning that they didn’t have 8 candidates. 13 lists were full meaning that they had 8 candidates. The existing Act states that on each list no gender should be represented with less than 40 %, so this means that the balance between men and women on lists that are full can only be 50 : 50.*

*One of the goals of our project was that women would be classified on places that would actually allow them to be elected and that the zipper system would be used.*

*Unfortunately we couldn’t be satisfied with the classifying women on the 1st place on candidate lists. Women were classified on the 1st place only in two cases. In 10 cases women were placed on the 2nd place (first women) and in three cases on the 2nd and 3rd place. On three candidate lists men were placed on 1st and 2nd place.*

*Our estimate was that such a number and composition of lists of candidates can lead to the election of three women – top.*

- Information for broader public on the results of the candidate lists' analysis - press conference (May 2014).
- Call to female and male voters that they should decide for those candidate lists on which women are properly classified. At the same time we will invite female and male voters to cast their preferential votes for female candidates.



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During the project we also participated in some events organized by other organizations, such as at a round table with the title You are EU (EU si ti): *Young women and politics* organized by PINA - The Association for Culture and Education.



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