

FEM-ABLE

NEWSLETTER

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Final Conference of the FEM-ABLE project held at Universidade Lusófona – Porto University Center

On November 12, Universidade Lusófona – Porto University Center hosted the final conference of project FEM-ABLE - Promoting Women's Participation in the Political Domain. The event marked the conclusion of two years of research and collaboration among the seven European countries, all committed to promoting gender equality in politics and increasing women's representation in political decision-making positions.

The opening ceremony was led by Universidade Lusófona's Professor José Paulo Oliveira, a faculty member and the international coordinator of the project, who welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of initiatives like FEM-ABLE in the European context.



During the morning session, Marine Masson from La Xixa presented the research findings from the project, highlighting the structural and cultural barriers that hinder women's political participation in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania, and Sweden. This was followed by a presentation on the Communication and Dissemination framework of the project, introduced by Audrone Kisieliene from SIF.

The second panel of the morning was moderated by Universidade Lusófona's Diana Loureiro, a project research fellow, and featured testimonies from Antigone Andreaki, politician and journalist from Heraklion, Greece and Ana Vitorino, founder of HeForShe Setúbal and political advisor for the Socialist Party, from Portugal. The panel was followed by an intense and polarising debate between the audience and the speakers on quotas, men as feminist allies, and intra-party life.



The afternoon session, moderated by **Universidade Lusófona's Professor Carla Cerqueira**, focused on **public policies for gender equality**. **Paschalia Leventi from CSI** presented the **process of design and development of the National Strategies**, the **commonalities identified between the 7 National Strategies** as well as the **main objectives of the Common European Strategy** developed. The session followed by **Nuria Casablanca from CESIE**, who, with an interactive presentation, introduced the themes of **intersectionality, the personal being political** and many more, while referring to the **events** held within the project.



Manuel Albano, Vice President of the Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG), provided an **overview of national and European policies**, emphasizing the **challenges and opportunities for implementing concrete measures**.

A screening of the documentary **"50|50" (2022)** by **director Mafalda Rebelo** followed, offering an **artistic and documentary perspective on the double working day and the division of domestic tasks**. A discussion with the filmmaker deepened the exploration of these themes.

The closing session was delivered by **Professor Sónia Lamy from Universidade Lusófona – Centro Universitário Lisboa**, who **highlighted the achievements of the FEM-ABLE project and the ongoing need to work toward greater female representation in politics**.

The conference welcomed students from the University, whose keen interest throughout the event was truly inspiring. Their engagement with the insightful presentations and dynamic panel discussions brought a spark of hope, reflecting their growing knowledge, awareness, and dedication to fostering a more equitable future.



Partnership meeting in Porto



On November 13 and 14, the partners of the FEM-ABLE project gathered at Universidade Lusófona – Centro Universitário do Porto.

The project meetings aimed to **review all research conducted** to date, revisiting previous work packages and the **overall process through presentations by the respective task leaders**. Discussions also focused on **finalising methodologies and guidelines** for completing the final reports.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a shared **commitment to keeping the project alive and active** even beyond its official conclusion. The partners expressed their intention to transition from working as a Consortium to functioning as a Hub, fostering collaboration and paving the way for a potential new alliance among the same partners.



To view more photos from the Final Conference and Project Meetings, [visit Lusófona's Facebook page](#). [Watch the audiovisual report on YouTube](#).



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