

FEM•ABLE

NEWSLETTER

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FEMABLE second partnership meeting was hosted by Women Do Business in Heraclion, Greece on September 27, 2023

The FEM-ABLE project aims to promote gender equality in policy-making by developing evidence-based national strategies and working with stakeholders to integrate research findings into national policy. The Project is funded by the European Union and contributes to a more equal representation of women and men in political decision-making, leading to inclusive and equal societies.

The project has been launched since the beginning of the year and a meeting has already been held in Cyprus with all partners. Following this meeting, a research on the situation of women's participation in politics has been carried out in each of the seven project countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Spain and Sweden).



3 Female political candidates for the local elections were invited as special guests and speakers

3 Female political candidates for the local elections in Greece were invited to the project partnership meeting and shared their experience and position regarding women political participation. More specifically, the participants were :

- **Rena Papadaki-Skalidi** (now Deputy Mayor of Social Services in the municipality of Heraklion and candidate for the Heraklion City Council / Right to the City faction),
- **Maria Kanavaki** (candidate for Mayor of Heraklion/Heraklion for You) and
- **Poppi Daskalaki** (candidate for Heraklion City Council / "Heraklion for You" party).

The three women candidates discussed their decision to enter politics, outlining the challenges they encounter as active female participants in the political sphere. They shared insights into their overall experiences and also highlighted the measures they are taking to further strengthen the political space.

Rena Papadaki-Skalidi provided **valuable statistics highlighting the under-representation of women in the country's political landscape**, from local to parliamentary level. Specifically, she mentioned that in the 2023 local elections in Greece, only 1 in 10 candidates were women, and in the Greek parliament, women's representation is only 23.7%. The **factors of women's low participation in the political arena** were discussed and possible support measures to enhance and encourage their increased participation were proposed .

Maria Kanavaki referred to her personal decision to participate in politics, the **obstacles she encountered during her political career - mainly due to the prevalence of stereotypes -** and the motivation of other women to join the political "battle".

She also made special reference to the importance of the role played by Civil Society Organisations and bodies dealing with women, such as Women Do Business, in terms of empowering and supporting women.

Poppi Daskalaki mentioned the reasons why she wanted to get involved in politics, the **balance that a woman has to keep between her private life and her commitment to the public**. Lastly, she thanked the organisation for motivating and empowering her to take part in the current elections in her country.



The lessons learned were particularly useful for all partners. The exchange of good practices will be useful for the further development of the project. Women Do Business is grateful for the existence of this project that support women and convey the message of the need for women's equality in politics.

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