



Strengthening Innovative Solutions to Protect Female Migrant and Refugee Rights

Online session
Feminist grassroots perspectives on trade pol

Wednesday 30 September 17:00 CET, 10.00 Mexico C
Languages: Spanish and English, French interpretation

Webinar COVID-19: Migrant women in Europe resistin...

Webinar COVID-19: Migrant women in Europe
resisting increased abuse and precariousness II,

15 July, 14.00 CET

Alexandra Geese, Member of the
European Parliament on behalf of
Die Grünen (Germany)
Jennifer Kamau Co-founder of
International Women Space (IWS),
Germany
Juliana Jauregui, Alianza por la
Solidaridad, Spain
Thamara Cruz, Siempre VZW, Belgium

WIDE+ Annual Report 2020



»We as women need to organize
and learn about our rights,
so that we will no longer
be exploited«

Interview with Jacqueline Amaya Rengifo,
The Association of Female Domestic Workers of Seville (Spain)



»That situation for LGBTQI*
people in Georgia makes you
feel like a secondary citizen
and a person deprived of
main rights«

Interview with Giorgi Tabagari, Tbilisi Pride Co-founder (Georgia)



Introduction

WIDE+ is a **European feminist network** of women's rights advocates, gender specialists, women's rights organizations and development NGOs. It works through interlinked strategies of **analysis** and **capacity building** (feminist literacy), **innovative movement building**, and **advocacy** informed by a feminist perspective.

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.

Not only an intersectional critical perspective that stands for a diversity of feminisms is important, a participatory, empowering, and holistic approach is also crucial – that is what a feminist vision means to WIDE+. WIDE+ is a democratic association with 18 organizational and around 40 individual members. **The number of associations involved is indirectly much greater, bringing together approximately 300 associations**; at least half of the members organizations are national platforms or other kinds of networks that bring together a group of other associations.



Structure of Report

This report describes the activities of WIDE+ for 2020 categorized according to the strategic priorities the WIDE+ membership agreed to work on in 2020. At the end of 2019, the WIDE+ network updated its strategic plan, which is reflected in this annual report. Of course, the WIDE+ network was hugely impacted by the **COVID-19 pandemic**; the first chapter will explain in which ways.

The second chapter focuses on WIDE+'s work around feminist economics. WIDE+ promotes a feminist socio-economic vision and policies that prioritize care and solidarity concerns to ensure that care work primarily done by women is truly valued. It calls for a transformation of macro-economic policies (like trade) so that they consider the needs and rights of women and other underprivileged groups and in which the environment is treated with respect.

The final two chapters focus on other key priorities of WIDE+. WIDE+ promotes an intersectional feminist approach that acknowledges the multiple discriminations that impact many women and gender non-conforming persons, aiming to contribute to feminist movement building for all people. WIDE+ will continue to promote movement building among migrant feminists in Europe, which is the topic of the fourth chapter.

In 2020, 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 neo-liberal 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.**

CHAPTER 1. COVID19-pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and its measures have had a huge impact on WIDE+. The network was all geared up for [several transnational workshops](#) during the 65th UN Commission of the Status of Women just when the travel ban was enforced at the end of February. Less than two weeks later it became obvious that all international and national meetings planned had to be cancelled. The only means of meeting continued to be online. As the pandemic progressed throughout the year, WIDE+ and its members cancelled all face-to-face activities planned for 2021 as well; the conclusion was that planning like in pre-COVID stage will be only secure and possible if there is more certainty about the vaccination process and infection rate post-vaccination.

WIDE+ members reflected collectively within WIDE+ on the impact of COVID-19 and on how it has affected their ongoing activities. It reflected on the increased violence against women & girls; the interrelationships between the continuing backlash on women's rights and the pandemic; the negative economic impacts for women*; including loss of income and an increased burden of (unpaid) care work; Exclusion of groups of women* from basic services and protection; and how the

European policies & responses had led to acute and increased precarity for women in the global south, while EU recovery packages (and of member states) remained gender blind to the uneven impact on the labour market for men and women. It also reflected on the few winners in the crisis like big tech companies. It made also visible that there is a need for global or regional regulations to ensure fair play of online economic activities that create more access for women entrepreneurs often found operating as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Online trading and consumerism are happening under opaque regulations in which tech companies have a lot of opportunities to gather and own data, impose huge percentages on smaller companies to make use of offering goods and services on their platforms, while being able to avoid paying a lot of tax as digital companies themselves.



Illustration by Ada Yokota, <https://www.instagram.com/adadotcomdotau/>

The restrictions on meeting face-to-face meant that some members' activities had been cancelled, and members used greater flexibility to adjust their plans to changing needs and circumstances. Some members started to provide or create information on the gendered impacts of COVID-19, and planned to take on new issues, often related to current topics such as feminist macroeconomic issues or the situation of migrant women. While some succeeded in bringing their activities online, others struggle with online work as a main way of working, especially when working with groups/individuals without internet access. Working digitally allows some feminist work to continue, but it cannot replace the face-to-face communication in our effort to bring about change and support women*.

Some members work closely with migrant women and report that during the pandemic, many migrant women have experienced new barriers to accessing healthcare, food, safety from violence and safe housing. This has propelled members to find ways of extending aid, for example by delivering food to people in their network, while keeping to distancing regulations. It has not been easy or straightforward to provide support in these circumstances. Associations that support partners in the global south have also faced a rising demand for assistance. Several members reported increased workloads, considering that many feminist associations and groups already face huge workloads.

WIDE+ Actions around COVID-19

Collecting resources on [COVID-19 and women's rights](#), which include several links to other websites that provide comprehensive lists of articles, statements and data published, especially [feministcovidresponse.com](#), which is a global effort to collect information and advocate for feminist principles, which WIDE+ has joined as well. The WIDE+ resource page was visited by 10.000 viewers in 2020.

Collaborating with the Gender Trade Coalition and others in collective work, including: a public statement asking for [investment in the care economy for a just, green, feminist Covid-19 response and recovery](#) that is now signed by almost 200 associations. And joining the statement by more than 400 [Feminists and Women's Rights Organizations from the Global South and marginalized communities in the Global North on how to deal with COVID-19](#). WIDE+ also signed the [#halfprofit campaign](#) to have the EU recovery package not leave women behind. WIDE+ joined over 500 civil society on statement to IMF to immediately stop promoting austerity around the world: [click here](#).

WIDE+ published a brief analysis reflecting the collective views shared on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic so far in [August of 2020](#). It started to prepare for an online webinar series highlighting the impact on COVID-19 and throughout the year disseminated information and analysis on the pandemic and its effects & the actions of feminists to help mitigate huge negative impacts. WIDE+ disseminated all the reports prepared by our members and partners.

CHAPTER 2. Feminist Economics

The new EU GAP III

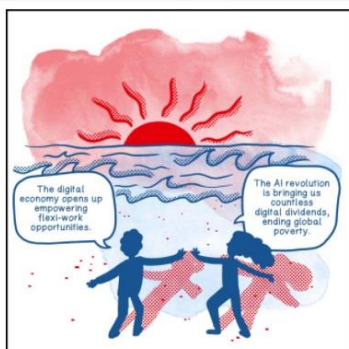
WIDE+ is a partner to the CONCORD gender reference group and the trade working group. In this capacity it has contributed to the civil society consultations around the evaluation of the action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment in external relations (GAP II) and recommendations for the formulation on GAP III. It facilitated an online session on digitalisation during the online consultation with staff of the European Commission, facilitated by CONCORD Europe webinar on the European Union's Gender Action Plan III, which took place Wednesday 8 July 2020.

Gender, Macro-economics, and the World Bank Group

The [Bretton Woods Project](#), [ActionAid International](#), [Eurodad](#), [Kvinna till Kvinna](#) and WIDE+ organized a series of virtual civil society workshops around: "Gender Equality & Macroeconomics at the World Bank", in September of 2020. The first online workshop provided an introduction into feminist economic approaches to the World Bank, the second discussed strategies for feminist advocacy at the World Bank, and the third specifically addressed the World Bank policy in relation to the private sector and corporate accountability.

Feminist Visions for the Digital Economy

WIDE+ has been part of the ad-hoc working group on the digital economy from a feminist perspective, an international working group facilitated by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung with the project: "Feminist visions on the future of work". It worked collectively throughout the first half of the year to prepare a study with visual messages: ["the Deal We Always Wanted – A Feminist Action Framework for the Digital Economy"](#), that gives a good overview of feminist positioning around the developments in the digital economy in relation to its impact on women's rights and gender inequalities. It was prepared by experts and civil society representatives from Europe, Latin America, Africa and South and Southeast Asia, in which the feminist tech association IT for Change took a leading role.

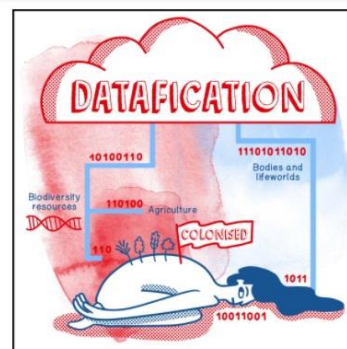


New technologies, digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence (AI) are rapidly transforming the present and future of work. The digital revolution is accompanied by the promise of the end of global poverty and economic growth.

But whether women across the world will have access to these technologies and to better economic opportunities and empowering work arrangements is an open question.



The structure of the digital economy is exacerbating inequality, deepening the feminisation of poverty. Today, large digital corporations have accumulated huge volumes of data. This gives them the 'intelligence advantage' to re-engineer global value chains using data-based insights and predictions. Aided by venture finance, they are able to gain monopolistic control in a particular sector as well as to entrench their stakes through horizontal and vertical integration, making the global economy more unequal.



The business model of transnational digital companies is characterised by data extractivism.

Bodies, intimate lifeworlds as well as all social and natural phenomena are now commodified by these companies as the raw material for capitalist exploitation and accumulation.

WIDE+ supported the hosting of the Webinar – “The digital economy in Asia: Feminist perspectives”, held on Wednesday 22 April 2020. This webinar provided a feminist perspective on how the Fourth Industrial Revolution is impacting the present and future of women’s work in Asian economies. It focused on the gender digital divide and implications of platformization and automation of value chains on women’s work and livelihoods in Asia as well as future priorities for feminist recommendations in the region.

UN Women Generation Equality Forum

WIDE+ engaged in the first part of the year in the process for the Generation Equality Forum, the review for Beijing+25 agenda, to bring forward transformative feminist proposals to the Economic Justice Action Coalition. In celebration and as method for further accelerating progressive change towards achieving the gender equality and women’s rights commitment laid down in the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Women had planned for a big Forum in two session (Mexico and France) in which thousands of feminists together with governments and private sector representatives would voluntarily commit to specific action agenda’s, of which there were 6 chosen with an additional process around the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Gea Meijers on behalf of WIDE+ collaborated in preparing a [progressive feminist economic agenda for the 25 years review](#) of the Beijing Platform for Action with other feminist networks and associations. And with these NGOs it formed an ad-hoc coalition with the Women’s group on financing for development and the gender and tax alliance. It arranged for an online meeting with UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and was involved in several follow up steps. When shortly after our meetings the Generation Equality Forum was postponed as well, our further involvement was halted. The women’s group on financing for development, of which WIDE+ is a member, was selected as a Civil Society co-leader for the Economic Justice Coalition and WIDE+ provided input in the process in the second part of the year into collective reflections within this international group.

Other: WIDE+ joined the Webinar: “Gender Lens on Financing for Development: Tax Justice for Gender Equality”, on 3 September, organized by the Feminist Task Force and WIDE+ member K.U.L.U. Women and Development. And WIDE+ members contributed to the New Action Aid Series on Advancing feminist economic alternatives ([Click here](#)).

Promotion of Gender-Just Trade Policies

The WIDE+ Gender and Trade working group continued its activities in 2020, with an active contribution to the Gender Trade Coalition that focused this year on online capacity building through a series of online webinars.



WIDE+ organized a session during the Geneva Trade Week, a kind of replacement event online for the WTO Public Forum. The session was held on 30 September with indigenous women's leaders from Latin America reflecting on the impacts of the trade policy, which provided a strong testimonial of the harmful impacts promoted through trade. The working group also took part in a meeting with the gender expert for the ex-post evaluation of the trade agreement between the EU, Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru, in which it also provided the feedback through a paper and shared many contacts for the EU expert team to follow up with in the region, in order to ensure that gender equality impacts are systematically addressed in the evaluation. And it co-organised and took part in two online meetings with staff from DG INTPA and DG Trade to exchange on gender equality plans in trade.

WIDE+ coordinated a public letter on behalf of European NGOs to ask the European Commissioner to ask for support for waiver in WTO for the prevention, containment & treatment of COVID-19. WIDE+ also joined a global coordinated effort by feminist NGOs.



Illustration by [Anastasiia NewTetkoren](#): Is it realistic to promote further protection of interests of companies (including investment) while expecting this will benefit at the same time grassroots women in the informal sector or as small scale farmers?

WIDE+ responded to the non-paper on gender equality inclusion in EU trade policy. On 9 November 2020 10 EU member states published a non-paper to encourage the European Commission to include gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Trade Policy. The paper was proposed by the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Finland, Denmark, Spain and Sweden ([link](#) to document). The non-paper gave a very important signal to the EU commission to prioritize gender in its trade policy. In this regards it sets an example for other countries to follow suit. In terms of its narrative this non-paper is a step backwards from the recommendations put forward by the European Parliament in 2018 in ensuring women's rights are respected in trade policy.

WIDE+ expressed its concern about the narrative in which a lot of the recommendations that could be greatly beneficial to women are framed in this non-paper. It is pessimistic that through the

exclusion of necessary recommendations to protect women's rights, the non-paper will do little to counter harmful impacts of trade agreements on women and in regards to promoting gender equality: [Download the response in PDF](#).

EU Trade Strategy Review

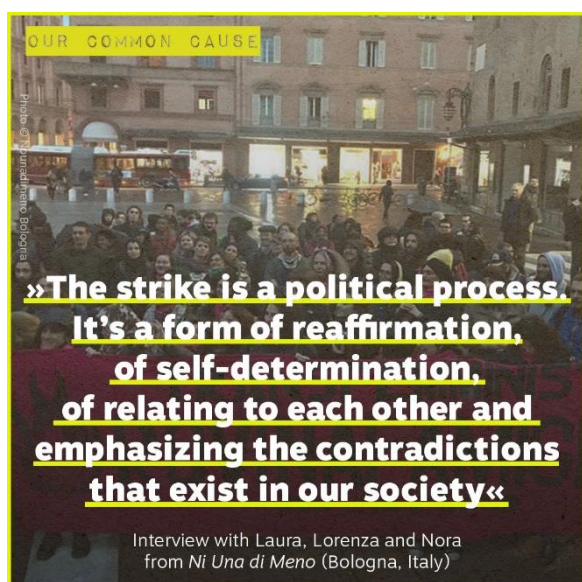
[WIDE+ and Action Aid](#) worked together to propose a strong feminist reply to the EU Trade Strategy Review online consultation organised by the EU to collect opinions for its new 5-year trade policy, reflecting on the experiences of trade with COVID19.

In sum, we believe Europe needs to engage in a deep review of its trade and investment policy to fully engage in the just and green transition announced by the Green Deal and to contribute to EU's gender equality strategy. We plead that the time has come not just for slight adjustments to trade and investment liberalisation, but for DG Trade to pursue a different mandate, i.e., a trade policy that fully respects international standards and countries governments' regulatory space to redistribute wealth, respect human rights and protect our planet. This notably requires to (1) Stop promoting trade and investment measures and rules that limit the policy options of partner countries to adapt to their changing circumstances; and (2) Enable shorter, more diversified, and more responsible value chains, in Europe as in partner countries. In terms of EU's gender equality approach in trade, we note that a focus on women's entrepreneurs is far from sufficient to address the massive impacts of trade and investment agreements on women's rights.

WIDE+ also contributed to the input into the Trade Policy review by [WO=MEN](#), who recommend that mainstreaming a gender perspective through trade policy should be based on a 'do-no-harm principle'.

CHAPTER 3. Intersectional Feminist Movement building

WIDE+ ongoing actions to making feminism more visible online.



WIDE+ maintained for most of the year its effort to extensively use WIDE+'s communication channels to better promote work of WIDE+ members and other feminists and engage in online dialogue. Where our twitter impressions grew from 32.500 views in 2017 to 66.000 views in 2018, to 142.000 views in 2019, it stabilized in 2020 with around 140.000 views and an engagement rate of around 1,4 %. These are all organic impressions as WIDE+ does not use any commercial services for its social media outreach. This is still a particularly good result, given the fact that in 2020 we could not join or organise any face-to-face meetings that also attract a number of visitors to our social media (through live reporting).

Our facebook outreach dropped from over 20.000 views and 1300 engagements to 11.000 views and 1200 engagements; it could also be indicative of a change in how Facebook is used by users. We used social media for different campaigns and events, and for making the voices and work of feminists visible. WIDE+ published 2-weekly member updates and kept its website up to date. In 2020, WIDE+ organized for the first time, video messages, including a video message from its

members of the WIDE+ migration and gender working group to stop Gender Based Violence, as an action during the 16 days to combat gender-based violence, coordinated by the UN.

“Our Common Cause”: interview series on feminist movements & struggles

This new series: ‘Common Cause’ defines feminism as an inclusive concept that is about protecting the rights of people while opposing any kind of oppression. The series is the result of the work carried out by social movement scholar Jennifer Ramme and her team of students in the context of the seminar on social protests and gender regimes at the European University Viadrina in 2019, through a collaboration with WIDE+. In the interviews, the activists talk about the issues they struggle with in various places in the world, though most articles focus on informal movements in Europe and Latin America. After the launch of the website, several new articles have been added around the Polish Women’s Strike.

Interview series: Our Common Cause

Peace Mothers (Turkey, Kurdistan and Germany) - ["It is our pain that brought us together"](#)

Non Una Di Meno (Italy) - ["Together we gain strength to change what is wrong with society"](#)

Women*Strike Committee Berlin - ["Does anyone really believe that equality exists in Germany?"](#)

Proceder / Ni Una Menos (Colima, Mexico) - ["If you're an activist and you don't have hope, you're in deep trouble"](#)

Tbilisi Pride (Georgia) - ["That situation for LGBTQI* people in Georgia makes you feel like a secondary citizen and a person deprived of basic rights"](#)

Insight (Ukraine) - ["We urge absolutely all women to join us, because we believe in women's solidarity"](#) (in English and Ukrainian)



Other actions:

WIDE+ statement: [WIDE+ stands in Solidarity with women’s rights protesters in Poland.](#)

Collective statement: ["Ensuring Access to Safe Abortion in Europe"](#), signed by WIDE+ and 65 other NGOs

WIDE+ supported the WUNRN EU Webinar: "Cyber Bullying & Online Violence Against Women", Thursday 5 November, building on the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and WUNRN advocacy. One of the speakers is Andrijana Radoičić, who is coordinator of direct support for victims of human trafficking within Atina and who represented also the WIDE+ network in the webinar. Dr Dubravka Simonovic, the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women spoke as well.

EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025

In the beginning of the year WIDE+ network formulated its [recommendations](#) to the online consultation for the new Gender Equality Strategy, asking for the inclusion of an intersectional perspective, especially including antiracist perspectives and ensuring that the specific needs and human rights abuses, such as an increased incidence of Gender-Based Violence, is included.

WIDE+ also contributed to the recommendations provided by CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development, to the formulation of the new strategy. A key recommendation is to keep the 'gender equality strategy' for the external relations separate from an overall EU Gender Equality Strategy. CONCORD and WIDE+ suggest that the European Commission should ensure that its [Gender Equality Strategy is as ambitious in its approach to gender equality within Europe as it is in its external actions](#) through the GAP.

New Briefing Paper: [A Review of Feminist Initiatives in Europe](#)

This publication was the result of a review of feminist organizing in Europe initiated by the WIDE+ network. We organized this review as we experience fragmentation between feminist initiatives and groups. We presented here conclusions from almost 20 in-depth interviews with feminists working in national and local contexts, as a source of inspiration and reflection for other feminists, without claiming that the observations from the interviews can be generalized.



A Review of Feminist Initiatives in Europe

This publication is the result of a review of feminist organizing in Europe initiated by the WIDE+ network. We organized this review as we experience fragmentation between feminist initiatives and groups. While some international spaces exist, there is no encompassing space for feminists to work together on strategies in Europe from a collective shared vision. Similarly, there is no network that connects all the diversity of feminist action and identities.

We present here conclusions from the in-depth interviews with feminists working in national and local contexts, as a source of inspiration and reflection for other feminists, without claiming that the observations from the interviews can be generalized.

Main challenges we found: In most of the interviews, the rise of the far-right emerged as a common issue in the current political spectrum. The expression of different forms of racism, LGBTQI phobia and other attempts to control activism also appear as intersectional challenges. The challenges different groups face daily in Europe differ a lot because of power asymmetries. Access to finance is a major issue. And another common challenge mentioned by feminist activists was a heavy workload combining their activism with paid work and reproductive work in terms of time and basic needs.

The following suggestions on strategies or areas of work for transnational collaboration came up: more funding for all kinds of feminist initiatives; transnational coalition-building and diversity of feminisms; digitalization; media strategies of building feminist narratives; sharing knowledge; and power asymmetries among feminists, including intergenerational collaboration.

To download in French: [les initiatives féministes en Europe 2020](#)



Post from the [Confluencia Feminista](#) instagram



WIDE+ took part in the online [Confluencia Feminista Assembly](#), part of the WSF of transformative Economies held 5 November to articulate feminist alternatives among examples of social and solidarity economies.

Other activities

ABF, GADIP and WIDE+ organized the webinar: “66 Days of Civil Resistance in Belarus Through Women’s Eyes, ongoing stories”, on 13 October. This was about 66 days of civil resistance in Belarus happening right this moment. There were stories told by three women from Belarus, by three citizens with a different experience of life, love, quest for freedom, activism, and participation in the protests.

WIDE+ is also a member of a coalition of Transform! Associations who are together implementing an Erasmus+ project on combating hate speech and misinformation in order to: “Dismantling Fake News to Stop Hatred: Education for the Inclusion of Adult Women in Risk of Exclusion”, led by Fundación Europa de los Ciudadanos. The project implementation was postponed to next year, due to the COVID pandemic.

CHAPTER 4. Protecting the rights of migrant women*

WIDE+ finalized its project titled ‘**Strengthening Innovative Solutions to protect Female Migrant and Refugee Rights**’ with its migration and gender working group. This project is funded under a grant from Open Society Foundation, and its objective is movement-building, creating networks and exchanging ideas. Overall, the working group’s main goal was to contribute to building a strong collective European coalition between groups of migrant women and refugee and other women’s rights associations, to push for better migrant and refugee’s policies. In the midst of 2020, a follow up project started, entitled: “**Expanding spaces for capacity building and exchange to strengthen women migrant movement building across Europe**”. Several national activities were planned for groups to network and meet. Due to the COVID19, one of the networks continued with their plans in the form of online gatherings. The RED Latinas in Spain organized a series of events to build the capacity of their members and to celebrate their 10-year anniversary as network. Other groups decided to postpone their activities around networking (tied to this project).

WIDE+ considers migrant women and girls inclusively, and under this definition, it includes gender non-conforming persons (trans, intersex and non-binary) who have been displaced between countries, trafficked, or women who have moved from a third or European country to a destination in Europe. Both projects created spaces for sharing, learning, and exchanging expertise among migrant women’s organizations and feminist organizations, thus helping to create a strong intersectional feminist thinking and a deeper understanding of the realities of migrant women’s experiences and their rights in Europe. There are currently 12 partners of this project within the working group, and it is a diverse group made up of associations from countries like Spain, Serbia, Germany, and Sweden. During the COVID-19 period, the working group also engaged in advocacy through participation in different EU online consultations and in one of the webinars it had an exchange with MEP Alexandra Geese around the EU recovery package around COVID19.

Transnational Capacity-Building

National and transnational capacity-building is consistently offered at transnational level during such meetings and online webinars. In 2020, the working group’s partners hosted three webinars on strategies of resistance of migrant women in Europe which not only raised awareness of the struggles of migrant women during the pandemic, but also brought great visibility of the different ways in which migrant women deal with the limited government support through creating their own spaces of solidarity and collaborations. Three transnational webinars were organised:

- Webinars COVID-19: Migrant women in Europe resisting increased abuse and precariousness I & II (ENG/ESP) on 8 & 15 July

- Webinar: “Resistance of migrant women in Europe: Structural Violence and COVID-19”, 4 December (END/ESP) with RED Latinas.

WIDE+ publication: Strengthening Innovative Solutions to Protect Female Migrant and Refugee Rights

This [publication](#) provides innovative solutions and lessons learned from the completion of the mentioned project that provided transnational collaboration among national migrant feminist associations and groups across Europe. It provides inspirational and relevant examples of practices we have encountered and good practice we have developed in our joint project of migrant feminists and other feminists.



“By creating and enhancing equal partnerships between women’s rights and migrant associations across Europe we find ways to help each other. Different groups have different information, so by collaborating and sharing, we learn from those who have done what we want to do and hear how they faced their challenges.”
Nancy Contreras, GADIP, ABF and Strong Women, Sweden

“It is important that this kind of partnership exists and that the position of migrant women is strengthened because they are at risk of being legally and administratively invisible, and unable to access their rights.” Jelena Hrnjak, project coordinator Atina, Serbia

“We should not only be aware of our oppressions but also of our privileges, so we do not reproduce power dynamics upon other comrades.... We have to break with patriarchal organisation logics ... and should provide self-care spaces within our organisations, where we can take care of ourselves [including the women that have responsibilities for others, such as children and elders]”, Recommendations from the work-shops in Spain.

“Many migrant women had amazing high skilled careers at home and when they came to the Netherlands, forced to leave and through a dangerous journey, their dream now is to get a job, which is such a waste of skill and talent!”, Christina Moreno, founder of SheMatters, the Netherlands.

WIDE+ as a democratic, financially viable and participatory network

WIDE+ continued to function well with this structure, having new working groups come to life and some to end. The WIDE+ General Assembly was successfully concluded on 15 October past week. Around 20 members were present or represented to review the reports of previous years, hold elections and vote on different proposals. The caucus and board met according to their schedule and performed their duties. The four thematic working groups have all been active throughout the year under difficult and exceptional circumstances of COVID19.

It is essential to the functioning of the network that we have a paid staff. The core of WIDE+ is the voluntary work of many members, partners, and friends. WIDE+ would like to thank all board members, caucus members 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, and our members for their contributions.