

Sonja Lokar – CV

Life:

Born 1948 in Zagreb, former Yugoslavia, now Croatia, nationality Slovene, living in Slovenia from 1950, mother of two grown up boys.

Education:

Graduated professor of French language and sociology at the Ljubljana University in 1971.

Sociologist, specialist for political party development, social welfare state issues and gender issues.

Published more than 300 articles in Slovene, Croat, English, French and German language. Co-author of the Women Can Do It I, II, III manuals, Author of Youth Can Do It manual

Professional career:

Young researcher in the Institute for National Issues in Ljubljana from 1971-1972.

Professional member of the Socialist Youth Organization national leadership of Slovenia 1972-74

Political analyst from 1974–1986.

Member of the Presidency of the League of Communists of Slovenia, now the Social Democrats 1986-2001.

Secretary General of the predecessor of the Social Democrats from 1989-1990

Establisher (in 1990) and till mid 2001 the leader of the first women's political faction in Slovenia, now called Women's Forum of the Social Democrats of Slovenia.

One of the leaders of the women's civil society peace movement and refugees' supporting groups in Slovenia and in former Yugoslavia (1990 – 2001).

MP, elected in the first multiparty national election in Slovenia in 1990-1992.

Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for Labor, Family and Social Affairs from 1990 –1992.

Volunteer in the Women's Group of the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity from 1994 to 1998, in the project: The Status of Women in CEE.

Executive director of the Budapest (1998 -2001) and from 2001 from Ljubljana Office of the CEE Network for Gender Issues, established by the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity in Budapest in January 1998, coordinator of the Ljubljana SEE regional Office from 2001-till today.

One of the initiators of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force in July 1999 and its chair from November 8, 1999.

Cooperating within the NDI training programs and election observation missions from 1998.

Cooperating with the OSCE Secretariat and Informal Gender Equality Group of the OSCE in Vienna from 1999

Cooperating within the International Idea Institute projects from 1999

Cooperating within the OSCE/ODIHR gender equality projects from 2000

Lecturing at the WB international conference of Women in transition in 2000

Lecturing to the post-graduated students at the Lund University of Law in Sweden, November 2004, to the 4th Master International studies for postgraduate students of

South Eastern and Balkan development cooperation of the Aspen Institute, Observatorio Balcani and Fondazione Nordest in Portogruaro , March 2006 and 2007.

Achievements:

Organizer of the transformation of the Slovene League of Communists into a modern Social Democratic Party (1986-1990)

Organizer of the successful women's action to safeguard the article on freedom of choice (abortion) in Slovenian new Constitution in 1991.

Organizer of the successful campaign for the enlargement of the right to the child allowance in 1992/3.

Organizer of the successful women's action to safeguard public and laic childcare facilities, free meals for poor children in primary schools and for all the students.

Organizer of the first quota system in a parliamentary party (then named the United List of Social Democrats) in Slovenia in 1995/6 – 40% minimum for both men and women for the party leadership elections and for the short lists for all elections.

Coordinator of the successful Slovene-Croat issue coalition of women's political party organizations, trade unions, women NGO-s, governmental bodies, Chamber of trade, law experts and media in the project for the prevention and eradication of sexual harassment at work named "How to Say No to the Boss", 1997/8.

Co-author (together with the Norwegian Labor Party Women) of the Women Can Do It project for social democratic women's groups in the CEE in 1998-1999. This project enabled social democratic parties in Central, South Eastern Europe and in the Baltic states to take the lead in political empowerment of women in their countries.

Author of the innovated Women Can Do It project in 1999-2001, which enabled women from all parties in eleven countries of the SEE to organize genuine national women's movements, connecting women in NGO-s, experts, trade unions, political parties, parliaments and governments, media with international actors with gender equality mandate. With the help of this project of the SP Gender Task Force, women in Serbia and Vojvodina crucially contributed to the defeat of Milosevic in elections in 2000. The average of WMP-s in the SP region in the lower houses of their parliaments went up from 7% in 1999 to nearly 18 % in 2007. (Bosnia and Herzegovina 14.3; Bulgaria 20.8, Moldova 20.8%, Macedonia 26.6% Croatia 21.1%; Serbia 20.4) and most of the countries of this region established national gender equality mechanisms.

In 2001/2 initiator and co-author of the SP GTF/NLP Women/ CEE Network for Gender Issues joint new Women Can Do It II project, training women how to get their fair share of power within their own parties. This project was implemented in 67 parliamentary parties in 9 countries of the Stability Pact region.

Co-author of SP GTF Roma Women Can Do It I training module helping Roma women to start their public and political engagement.

Co-author of the Women Can Do It III training module, helping women elected on the local level to make a difference. Both these projects were implemented in 2003 -2005 in 12 SEE countries.

Author of the Youth Can Do It training module now in implementation in all SD parties of the SEE region, in Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and in North Western Russia.

Co-founder of the Parity Coalition in Slovenia in 2001, which successfully lobbied for the enactment of the 40% quota rule for the candidate lists for the EU elections in 2004 and the change of the Constitution-Article asking for legal positive measures in order to

get equal representation of women in all decision making bodies. Slovenia has 42% of women in its 7 members group of the MEP-s.

Co-author of the Roma Women Can Do It II which has just been finished in 10 SEE countries and territories in March 2007, helping Roma women to get better organized in international, national and local Roma politics and to improve the implementation of the gender equality aspects of the governmental Roma integration national action plans.

Co-founder of the Slovenian coordination for the European Women's lobby.

Ljubljana, July 2007