

**Call for Papers Workshop EWIS2022**  
**University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, 6-9 July 2022**

**Visions and Impediments in the promotion of Women, Peace and Security Agenda in South Eastern Europe and East Mediterranean**

**Conveners:**

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**Workshop summary:** The Covid 19 pandemic appears to have deteriorated an already compound security agenda in South Eastern Europe and the East Mediterranean. Weak post conflict environments along with states facing population flows, climate change, interstate antagonisms and strong economic challenges, comprise a region in which hierarchies and inequalities continue to dominate. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Policy Agenda has been sporadically implemented despite efforts from International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and a small number of governments either from within or from outside the region to promote its credentials.

Against this background, a number of regional women's initiatives and certain regional networks appear to gradually cultivate a progressive attitude not seen before as regards women's participation and protection in the region's peace and security challenges. Since the WPS Policy Agenda is a unifying transformative effort producing participatory governance ontologies, it is important to look and discuss interconnected truths depicting the difficult process of building participatory post conflict societies in the region.

At the same time, it is important to investigate the prospects for adopting regional good practices that are best serving the WPS Agenda. For this reason, this workshop will seek papers studying the shared experiences on certain aspects of the WPS agenda. Local voices from gender experts from region but also analysts from outside the region working in the area of WPS implementation on region will constitute the academic target of this workshop. This workshop will welcome papers that discuss certain case studies, empirical as well as theoretical questions related to the implementation of the WPS agenda in this part of the world.

We welcome papers that focus on case studies, empirical material and comparative analysis. Indicative topics and questions that the workshop will examine may include:

- The role of regional organizations in promoting positive initiatives favouring greater participation of women in governance, peacemaking and peacebuilding.
- In what ways regional or international Civil Society Organizations have empowered women in seeking greater participation in political decision making?
- In what forms, international organizations or governments have supported victims of conflict related gender violence.?
- Are there regional initiatives that promote a shared vision in this regard?
- Are societies in the region ready to support the WPS Agenda in their everyday practices. Can those practices establish a common understanding or a sustainable narrative to which regional governments should respond?
- Can we observe leading paradigms from International Organizations or certain governments that encourage regional synergies with a unifying effect on establishing positive attitudes with regard to the WPS logic in promoting participatory governance

**Submissions Deadline: 31 January 2022**