



Invitation

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Budapest cordially invites you to a round-table discussion within the framework of its regional programme called "Gender equality in East-Central Europe" on

Dialogue on gender equality:

In Search of Lost Demographic Boom – Discourses around child-bearing

“Extinction of the nation”, “unsustainability of welfare state”, “removing barriers for couples desiring (more) children”, “having children as a value and the meaning of life (of a woman) (and of a man)” – different approaches and languages are used in East-Central Europe to speak about child-bearing and, in a broader sense, about the demographic crisis. Also, some of the prevalent discourses argue against gender equality policies and others exclude socially disadvantaged groups.

What influences child-bearing decisions? What is the role of our personal beliefs, values and ideas? What about the overall economic situation of a country, job security, female employment, possibilities of work-life balance for men and women, affordable and quality child-care services, cash transfers, the changing gender roles, participation of fathers in the unpaid labour – do they play a role? How are these questions framed in a conservative view? What aspects occur in a feminist critique and in a socially inclusive approach? How do we speak about needs of LGBT couples in this regard?

We kindly invite you to discuss the above mentioned and other related questions together with experts from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

In 2014 we discussed [in February](#) and [in June](#) political mobilisations in France, Poland and Slovakia against what some groups call “gender ideology”. During the controversial but respectful events among others with representatives of conservative and human rights based women’s associations, religious groups and academia the demand and the hope for a [dialogue on gender issues](#) were articulated. So we launched a dialogue series, starting in October with [the topic of motherhood](#), continuing with [the one on masculinities](#) in March. With our present forum we would like to continue and deepen the dialogue between different actors concerned by gender relations in the democratic society.

22 April 2015, 3.30 pm – 8 pm

**Venue: Aranytíz Kultúrház
V., Arany János u. 10.**



**Dialogue on gender equality:
In Search of Lost Demographic Boom – Discourses around child-bearing**

Programme

Chair

Andrea Pető, Professor, Department of Gender Studies, CEU, Budapest

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm: Registration

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm / What influences child-bearing decisions?

Opening remarks

Eszter Kováts, Project leader, “Gender Equality in East-Central Europe”, FES

Inputs

Dorota Szelewa, Assistant Professor, Institute for Social Policy, Warsaw University; Social Policy Expert, International Centre for Research and Analysis

Zsolt Spéder, Director, Hungarian Central Statistical Office - Demographic Research Institute

Q&A

5.30 pm – 6.00 pm / Coffee break

6.00 – 8.00 pm / Panel debate on how we speak about child-bearing

Hajnalka Székely, Director, National Association of Large Families, Budapest

L’ubica Kobová, Department of Gender Studies, Charles University, Prague

Anikó Gregor, Faculty of Social Sciences, ELTE University

Discussion

8.00 pm / Finger buffet

English-Hungarian interpretation is provided.

Participation is free of charge but requires registration by April 19th [at this link](#).

For the registration please indicate your affiliation and position.

The facebook event page of the forum is [here](#).

With regard to those who would not be able to participate in working hours we scheduled the forum for the evening. If required we can offer child-care free of charge during the event. In that case registrations are requested by April 15th.