

Karolina Leaković
HR - 10 000, Zagreb, Croatia
Belostenčeva 8
[karolinaleakovic@gmail.com](mailto:karinaleakovic@gmail.com)
m: +385 98 350 670
w: <http://karolinaleakovic.net>



Date and place of birth:
16 September 1977, Slavonski Brod, Croatia

Education:

Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher (January - October 2021), Arizona State University - Graduate College, Tempe, AZ, USA

PhD Student in Sociology (May 2018 -), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb.

Graduated from Academy of Dramatic Art, University of Zagreb, Department of Production (Film, Theatre, Television) and from Faculty of Political Science, Journalism Department (MA, *magna cum laude*)

Course on “An Integrated Approach to Public Relations”, London School of Public Relations (2003)

Course for Spokespersons, Public Open University, Zagreb (2002)

Journalism Workshop, Croatian Journalists’ Association (1999)

Professional experience:

- Member of Croatian Parliament (March 2010 – November 2011, July 2014 – December 2015, March - July 2020). Candidate in elections for Croatian Parliament (2007, 2011, 2015 and 2016) and elections for European Parliament (2014) While serving in Croatian Parliament: Member of Joint Parliamentary Committee EU - Croatia, Committee on European Integration, Inter-parliamentary Co-operation Committee and Committee on Croats outside the Republic of Croatia (2010 - 2011) as well as member of Labour, Retirement and Social Dialogue Committee and Environment and Nature Conservation Committee (2014 - 2015) Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Austria (2010 - 2011)
- Vice-President of Party of European Socialists Women (2015 - 2018)

- Social Democratic Women's Forum Acting President (December 2016 – November 2018), Social Democratic Women's Forum Vice-President (2010 - 2018), Member of Presidency (2006 - 2010), General Secretary (2002 - 2006)
- SDP Croatia International Secretary (2008 – January 2017) and December 2020 - present
- Member and Trade Union Branch Coordinator, Novi sindikat, Zagreb (January 2017 – ongoing)
- Member of International Board of Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues (2012 - 2017)
- Member of Center for Women's Studies, Zagreb, Croatia (2015 - ongoing)
- SDP Executive Board and Main Board Member (2004 – 2008), Spokesperson (2000 - 2003). SDP Main Board Member (April 2016 – December 2016)
- Journalist in daily newspapers “Glas Slavonije”, Osijek, Croatia (1994 - 1999)

Professional engagements:

- **TAIEX Expert** Database registered (as of May 2017). Areas of Expertise: Rule of Law, Institutional Building, Europeanization, Democratization, Post-Socialism and the Balkans, Women's Human Rights, Gender Equality, Political Parties, Civil Society
- **Founder** of the informal “Politics to Women!” programme (2013 - 2017), in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation office for Croatia and Slovenia
- **Co-founder** of Political Academy New Society (2006 - 2015) as an informal education programme aiming at promoting democracy and citizens' involvement in policy and issue-making in Croatia and region, in partnership with FES Office for Croatia and Slovenia
- “Win with Women” NDI Global Forum **participant and signatory** to the Global Action Plan (2003)
- Academy for Political Development **alumna** (2004)
- **Lecturer and trainer** for NDI Algeria in “Youth in Politics“ Programme, April 2006
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bruxelles Office Working Visit “Linking Progressive Stakeholders on EU-level” (16 - 27 February 2009)
- US Department of State **International Visitor Leadership Program** alumna (2010)
- Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence Regional Academy for Democracy **alumna** (2015)
- “120 Years of Social Democracy in Croatia”, **exhibition consultant** (2015)
- **Lecturer** at “Women's Studies”, Centre for Women's Studies Zagreb (2014 - ongoing)
- **Participant and presenter** at “Comparative Media Systems: Post-Transition, Postgraduate Course and Research Conference”, Inter University Center, Dubrovnik (2014)
- Presenter at Arizona State University and Saudi Journalists' Association Workshop on Crisis Management, July 2021

- Presenter at “Women’s Empowerment in Central and Eastern Europe” workshop, November 2012, Budapest, Hungary
- **Lecturer and trainer** at NDI and Olof Palme International Center Programme “SDP Women in Regional Cooperation” (2012)
- **Initiator** of naming Croatian Parliament’s journalists’ premises after Marija Jurić Zagorka, first woman parliamentary reporter in South-East Europe and one of the founders of Croatian Journalists’ Association (2012)
- **Mentor and lecturer** at NDI Regional Political Academy (2013 – 2015 and 2017)
- **Participant and presenter** at the Regional Meeting of the Open Government Partnership’s Legislative Openness Working Group, September 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro
- **Participant** at Gender Platform for Development of Serbia (2014) and at Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians (2014), Palić and Belgrade, Serbia
- **Trainer** at Promising Politicians Course for Young Political Leaders in the Balkans, organized by Max van der Stoel Foundation and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2014, 2015 and 2016
- **Lecturer** at Women’s Leadership in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia Conference, organized by USAID, NDI and supported by OSCE, April 2015, Belgrade, Serbia
- **Participant and presenter** at the Conference of the Open Government Partnership’s Legislative Openness Working Group, September 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia
- **Lecturer and trainer** at Equality Academy, organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sarajevo Open Centre, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Participant and presenter** at “Women and Media” Conference, University Department for Croatian Studies, Zagreb (May 2017)
- **Lead trainer** at “Young Professionals” NDI Albania seminar in Durres, Albania (May and September 2017)
- **Participant and Presenter** at “Money in Politics” Conference (SAOG – Council of Europe, IDEA – IFES – NIMD - OSCE-ODIHR, TI Georgia), Tbilisi, Georgia (June 2017)
- Participant of “Grodno Forum of Women Leaders”, November 2019, Grodno, Belarus, organized by OSCE - ODIHR and Council of Europe
- Participated in numerous conferences, seminars, debates, round tables, education programmes, both as presenter, lecturer and trainer, in Europe and North Africa
- **Lead Drafter** of the Paper “Roadmap Towards a Gender Sensitive Parliament of Montenegro” (April 2016)
- **Trainer** for Members of Parliament and Staff of Parliament of Montenegro on Gender Sensitive Legislation and Procedures, OSCE Mission to Montenegro, 2018 and 2019
- **Short-term observer**: Joint NDI-IRI International Election Observation Mission, Presidential Elections, Tunisia, September 2019
- **Independent Consultant** on Gender Mainstreaming in Electoral Processes for UNDP Georgia Project on Gender Mainstreaming, 2020
- Experienced public speaker, motivator, facilitator and organizer.

Publications:

- Book (co-editor): “30 years of Social Democratic Party of Croatia”, Social Democratic Party of Croatia (2020) (HR)

- Book (contributor): "Taking the Wheel and Piloting Change", National Democratic Institute (2019) (EN)
- Publication (contributor): "Reproductive Justice for a More Just Society", Pariter (2018) (HR)
- Paper: "Croatia: Political Party Quotas in the Social Democratic Party", in "The Implementation Of Quotas: European Experiences", IDEA (2004) (EN)
- Book: "10 years of Social Democratic Women's Forum", editor (2005) (HR)
- Book: "Gender Equality: A Very Personal Approach", editor and author (2010) (HR, EN)
- Article in the book: "Fighting a Discriminatory Deal" in "Woman Up! Political, business and academic perspectives on women's representation. A transatlantic gender dialogue", Foundation for European Progressive Studies (2013) (EN)
- Article: "On the Market, On the Market", Nepokoren grad 2/2014, Zagreb Young Antifascist Network (2014) (HR)
- Paper: "Building Bridges between Civil Society and Party Political Actors in the Western Balkans - The Perspective of Political Foundations", European Network of Political Foundations (2015) - in collaboration (EN)
- Research paper: "Women and Men in Broadcast News in Croatia from 2009 to 2013: Voices of Unequal Value", Faculty of Political Science (2015) - awarded by the Rector of the University of Zagreb – in collaboration (HR)
- Articles in the book: "Transforming Politics – Women in Politics", European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, CEE Network for Gender Issues and PES Women (2015) (EN)
- Book review: "Women and Politics: Feminist Political Science" (2017). Annals of the Croatian Political Science Association (Vol 13, No 1) (HR)
- Article: "Women and Men in Television News – The Unequal Voices" (2017). Medijska istraživanja / Media Research (Vol 23, No 1) (HR)

Languages:

Croatian
 English (advanced user)
 German (intermediate)
 French and Russian (basic)