

Women4Advancement

The project “Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making for women advancement”

Membership Support Regranting Scheme 2024 / RE-GRANTING AGREEMENT No. MASF2024-006

Template for the collection of good practices on how to promote women in politics

<p>1. Main theme Related themes</p>	<p>DAMENWAHL concerns the women's political aspects of election programs of the different parties of elections on national, regional and local level.</p> <p>Related themes, always from a feminist point of view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education • labour market • private care- and housework and its compatibility • health • gender-based violence • political representation • Gender Mainstreaming/Gender Budgeting
<p>2. Implementing country</p>	<p>Austria</p>
<p>3. Implementation level (national, regional local)</p>	<p>National, regional, local</p>
<p>4. Main goal and objectives of the good practice</p>	<p>To make women's political aspects of the election programs of different parties visible</p>
<p>5. Target group/groups</p>	<p>Female and male voters of national council, state parliament and local council elections</p>
<p>6. Name of lead organisation/body implementing the practice Please also indicate the type of organisation/body (National/regional/local authority, NGO etc.)</p>	<p>Grazer Frauenrat and Thekla</p> <p>The Graz Women's Council is an independent association for networking and supporting the feminist scene in Graz. Originally founded in 1986 by Grete Schurz, the Graz Women's Council today consists of representatives of many feminist groups, associations, institutions and activists*.</p> <p>Thekla was an independent association of all autonomous women organisations in Graz. It was dissolved a few years ago.</p> <p>Local and regional</p>
<p>7. Partners, if relevant Please also indicate the country and type of organisation/body (National/regional/local authority, NGO etc.)</p>	<p>Thekla was the initiator of Damenwahl. The Network Thekla consisted of following institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Danaida – meeting point for female migrants ▪ Frauenservice Graz ▪ Frauengesundheitszentrum Graz ▪ Frauenhäuser Steiermark

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mafalda – Mädchenberatungsstelle Graz ▪ Peripherie – Institute for practical Gender research <p>All of them are also members of the Grazer Frauenrat</p>
8. Period of implementation	Since 2010
9. Funding/Financial resources and other resources (national, EU, etc.)	City of Graz and voluntary work by members
<p>10. Description of good practice and it’s activities</p> <p>Before the respective elections at the level of the City of Graz, the Province of Styria or the National Council elections, questions are asked of the respective top candidates regarding their women's policy orientation in order to give voters orientation regarding women's policy.</p> <p>The questions cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education • labour market • private care- and housework and its compatibility • health • gender-based violence • political representation • Gender Mainstreaming/Gender Budgeting <p>The results are published in News Papers, events, social medias, homepages of the networks and member organisations, and panel discussions with politicians.</p> <p>In this way, voters are informed about how the candidates from the different parties stand on important women's policy issues.</p> <p>The concept of Damenwahl was taken over from the Austrian Frauenring for Vienna, Salzburg adapted to the regional circumstances.</p> <p><i>Short policy context (situation, which enabled starting such type of project), detailed description of activities and tools used to promote gender balance in politics, innovative/novel elements in the design or in the implementation</i></p>	
11. Impact/results of monitoring and evaluation of good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation in the field of women and feminist policies for female and male voters – local, regional, national • Orientation aid and basis of reflection for parties and their candidates – local, regional, national

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and feminist policies were pushed forward in the field of women and feminist policies – local, regional, national • Comparison of the parties and their candidates in the field of women and feminist agendas
12. Lessons learned Main challenges and obstacles encountered, how they were addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather much knowledge of institutional and social aspects and data • Use all channels for publishing the results and discuss them with different target groups, gather the results and use them for the next steps.
13. Success factors of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background knowledge, • Preparation of social science data over time to show development • formulate a few questions that cover all subject areas: they must be clear and unambiguous. This requires a lot of background knowledge • put much energy in the PR work
14. Ways in which the practice could be improved	<p>By comparing the Austrian “Damenwahl” with other countries</p> <p>We, the Grazer Frauenrat and some women institutions, are planning a proposal for an international project, to compare the different situations in the countries. We will choose countries with different women percent of politicians and voting system. Before choosing we make a cluster following the criteria above, than we will adapt and compare the concept of Damenwahl.</p>
15. Advice and recommendations for those, who wish to implement this good practice	<p>See above</p>
16. Source of good practice, contacts, references	<p>www.grazerfrauenrat.at/damenwahl</p>