



GRUNDTVIG

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2010 – 1 – IT – GRU13 - 12993

workshop

## **The Politics of Food: Gender Roles and Environmental Changes**

**17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Italy, Bolsena – Convento S.Maria del Giglio**

Industrialized food production has led to ambiguous roles for women who face both gains and losses. There has been a gain in equality with some women able to enter the work force (often to work in food chains). They have been able to manage some of their family duties of care through outsourcing of food production. But the downside has been a lack of knowledge and skills in the actual process of food production and nutrition leading to imbalanced diets of fast food which in turn are leading to obesity and other forms of ill health. There also similar little understood changes to the environment with growing agribusiness, global trade and urbanization. Despite the changes in women's work loads within the family and community there has not been a parallel transformation of gender roles – it is still mostly women who fix the meals. Also, regulation on safety has also become an important though little discussed feature of modern European life with the globalised food market. The workshop will also explore the European Union politics and institutions that determine regulation and policy on food, and will stimulate debates among participants examine what is happening in their country as well as consider possible impact of food regulations in other EU countries particularly newly member states.

The workshop will explore the response to some of the negative changes in food by looking at lessons learned by a variety of initiatives, included the slow food movement, founded in Italy. The focus will be on ways to regain knowledge of nutritious food preparation and revalue women's role in the home in different European settings. The multicultural participation of the workshop will encourage participants to rethink and redefine the gender relationship to food. Knowledge on food security, economics, sustainability and ecology as well as social science and politics will be brought together in innovative teaching modules.

By bringing together participants from different countries<sup>1</sup> the workshop will explore the different European contexts of food, women and environment and explore ways in which to balance the pluses of modern life with a conservation of knowledge and skills around food and nutrition. The discussions will be linked to European wide gender and environment and food security networks to see what is required to be changed in the European context to regain the balance and food and health security. A special section will be dedicated to focus how common European and global food safety regulations interact with food traditions, food security and gender, especially in the EU countries which have joined the Union more recently.

### **Objectives**

1. Acquire a unique multisectoral perspective on the transformation of food systems produced by industrialisation and globalisation of markets
2. Learn about the rise of agribusiness and about the commodification of food in food industry

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<sup>1</sup> Among those admitted by the programme

3. Learn about institutions and policies at European and international level which are essential stakeholders in the food panorama.
4. Analyse transformation of food systems and related economies through a gender lens (changing role of women towards food, women in workforce and in food industry, women in agriculture and in agribusiness) and gain an understanding of main issues debated in ecofeminism on the topics
5. Learn about the slow food movement in Italy and about the local food semi-industrial production and cuisine regionally in Italy
6. Learn some traditional knowledge on food preparation through hands-on sessions
7. Learn how to use blogs and other social media for disseminating information, creating networks of people with common interest, document the learning experience
8. Network with other institutions and networks engaged in food, gender and environment to understand how to encourage greater awareness of 'slow food', traditional cuisine and how to appreciate the importance of women's roles in food production and culture

## Venue

The workshop will be held in the center of Italy, 120 Km north of Rome, at the XVII Cent. Franciscan Convent S.Maria del Giglio ([www.conventobolsena.org](http://www.conventobolsena.org)) in Bolsena, managed by the organization Punti di Vista.

Accommodation will be in the Convent in single or double rooms, and shared bathroom.

## Participation

Up to 15 participants are admitted with full scholarship and reimbursement of travel expenses. Scholarships are available for citizens of EU member states and of Island, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey; Italians are not eligible for cost coverage under this project, but participation is possible by covering one's expenses (travel, food and accommodation).

Priority will be given to:

- teachers
- former or present students of women's studies
- Retired people involved in civic activities or in university education with at least some basic knowledge of internet
- Development workers at local or international level involved in NGOs or other civil society organizations.

The workshop will be held in English.

## Applications

Applications will be received until the 13<sup>th</sup> of September.

Those interested to participate should send before that deadline:

- 1) a CV in EU format in English (the template can be downloaded at <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/hornav/Downloads/EuropassCV/CVTemplate.csp>)
- 2) a motivation letter explaining the interest of the candidate in this workshop
- 3) a short statement (max 1000 characters) on what the candidate plan to use the acquired knowledge.

Applications should be sent to:

Associazione Culturale Punti di Vista [puntidivista@pelagus.it](mailto:puntidivista@pelagus.it)

Results will be communicated to each applicant on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.