Warsaw, 16 February 2020

Press release

**International conference "Women and the challenges of the future decade 2020-2030"**

EUNIC Warsaw – the Association of European Union National Institutes for Culture – along with the Department of International Management of the Warsaw School of Economics and the International Women’s Forum are pleased to invite you to an international academic conference on the challenges awaiting women in the coming decade. The conference will take place on 9 March 2020 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on 10 March 2020 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Hall I, Building C of the Warsaw School of Economics, Al. Niepodległości 128.

We are meeting in a transnational group of specialists on the occasion of the International Women's Day to discuss the prospects and professional future of women. Invited guests include female entrepreneurs, politicians, social leaders, scientists, and religious leaders. Discussions will centre on the situation of women in a changing Europe: the pay gap, forms of discrimination in the labour market, women's work-life balance, partnership in the family, and European Union’s gender equality policy. We will also touch upon the position of freelancers in the world of art and culture, and women’s career paths at universities.

We would like to invite anyone interested in gender equality in the workplace and private life to join us for discussion.

The conference will begin on Monday, 9 March 2020, at noon, with an official welcome by Rupert Weinmann, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Warsaw, which currently holds the presidency of EUNIC Warsaw. The opening speech for a plenary discussion will be delivered by prof. Hanna Godlewska-Majkowska, Vice-Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics.

Between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., the plenary discussion chaired by Halina Brdulak, Professor of the Warsaw School of Economics, will centre on women in the labour market from the economic perspective. The key-note speaker will be Claire Godding from the Wallonia-Brussels region, who works as the main expert in Febelfin, a Belgian organisation working for diversity, integration, and social needs in the finance sector. The panel will also host Bianka Siwińska, who is in charge of the "Perspektywy Women in Tech Summit,” the largest meeting of women working in TECH and IT sectors in Europe.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Ewa Lisowska, Professor of the Warsaw School of Economics, will chair a panel entitled "Women, Family, Care", where she will ask the speakers about the economics of care and real opportunities to combine professional and family life in today's world. The key-note speaker will be Ms. Vivienne Hayes, Director of Women Research Centre in the UK.

At 5.15 p.m., a remarkable documentary "Reformisten – den kvindelige imam" (“The Reformist – a female imam”) by Danish director Marie Skovgaard will be screened in the conference hall. The film tells the story of Sherin Khankan, a Muslim imam who opens one of the first mosques in Europe run by a woman. The members of the mosque work to overcome concerns related to Islam and adopt a new feminist perspective, breaking with the established gender hierarchies. The film's main protagonist – imam and activist Sherin Khankan – will take part in the screening and answer questions from the audience afterwards.

The second conference day will begin on Tuesday, 10 March 2020, at 10 a.m., with a debate on gender equality in practical terms. The introductory speech will be delivered by Zuzana Fellegi, a lawyer and lecturer at the Anglo-American University in Prague. Ewa Rumińska-Zimny, president of the International Women's Forum, will then moderate a debate with representatives from Poland, Denmark, Belgium, and Romania on the challenges of implementing gender equality law.

Between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., the final plenary discussion will centre on women in science and culture, with a particular focus on the position of women as professional artists in the arts and culture sector. The debate will also touch upon possible career paths of women at universities and the limitations they face, as well as raising the issue of differences in the perception of women and men as researchers. The keynote speaker will be Austrian artist Julya Rabinowich, who will be joined by Polish writer Sylwia Chutnik, German writer and film critic Sarah Khan-Heiser, and others.

**Participation in the conference is free of charge. Registration via e-mail is required:** agnieszka.zawada@sgh.waw.pl.

Details of the programme and information on the speakers and experts are available on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/events/179972883283219/

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**Organisers**:

EUNIC Warsaw ([www.eunic.pl](http://www.eunic.pl)): EUNIC Warsaw is an Association of European Union National Institutes of Culture operating since 2007 with nearly 30 active members, associated members and partners, headed by EUNIC Global, based in Brussels. EUNIC's mission is to promote intercultural dialogue, strengthen the role of culture in EU Member States, and promote European values. EUNIC Warsaw focuses on the following objectives: strengthening the network of European cultural institutes and embassies in Warsaw, and creating synergies and effective networking partnerships with other professionals in the field of culture and beyond in Poland; enhancing the role of culture in present-day society, and strengthening the sense of belonging to a rich and diverse European cultural community; promoting European culture and its values such as cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, gender equality, and multilingualism; strengthening and maintaining cultural dialogue, exchange, and cooperation with third countries.

Department of International Management of the Warsaw School of Economics

International Women's Forum

**Partners**:

Forbes Women