

FE.P.I.B.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

FEMINISMS AND POLITICS IN INTERWAR  
BALKANS AND EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

## Conference Program

**November 28-30, 2024**

📍 Auditorium A, Faculty of Letters, University of Crete,  
Campus of Gallos, Rethymno







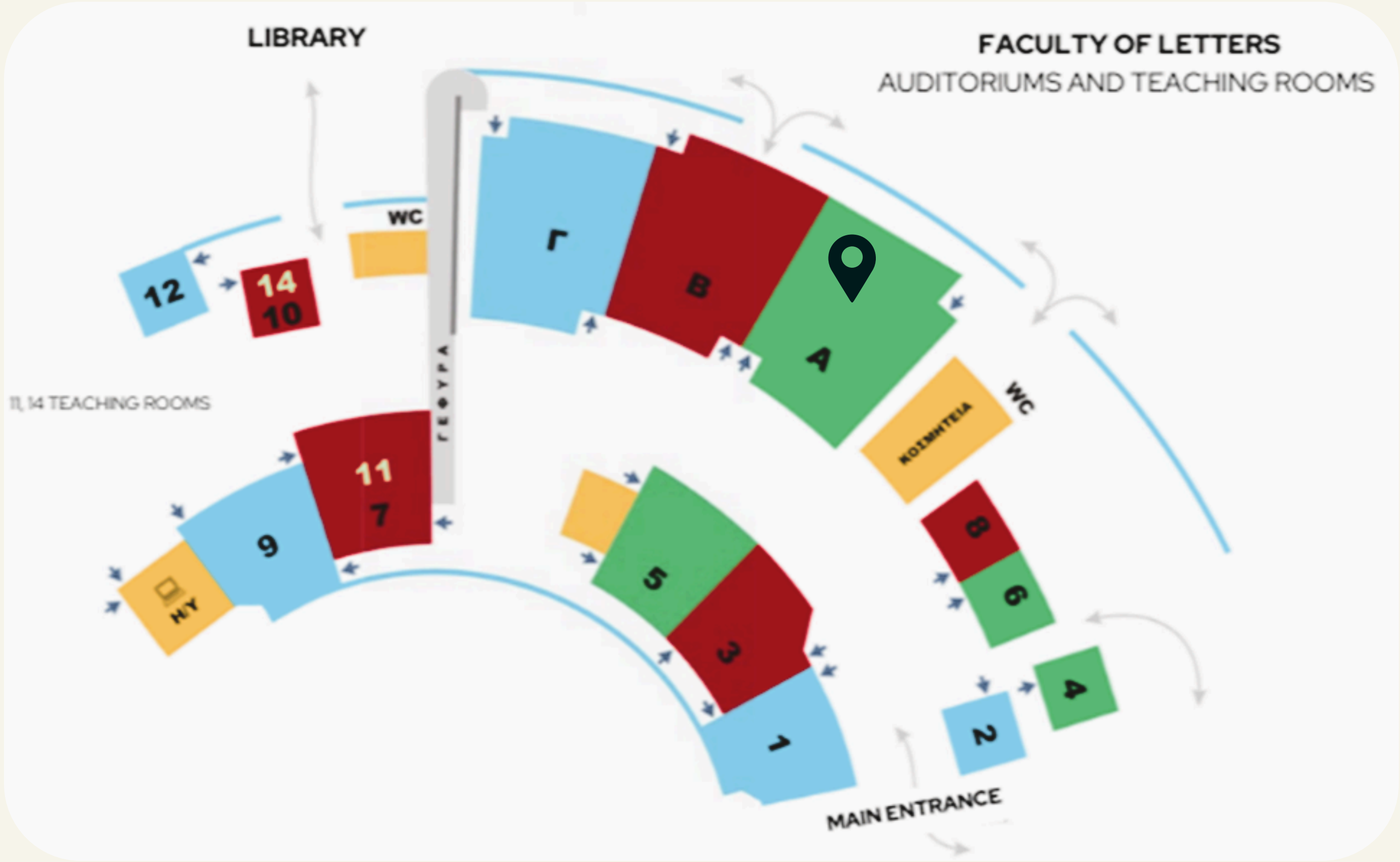


# Venue

The Conference will take place at Auditorium A, Faculty of Letters, University of Crete, Campus of Gallos, Rethymno.



## Auditorium A





# Keynote Speakers

Thursday, November 28 / 9:30-10:30 a.m.

## Francisca de Haan

Professor Emerita, Central European University (CEU)



**Francisca de Haan** is Professor Emerita of Gender Studies and History at Central European University (CEU) and currently Adjunct Program Head of the MATILDA MA in Women's and Gender History. She is also a Fellow at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. Her research interests focus on transnational and intersectional women's and gender history, the histories of international women's organizations, socialist and communist women's political activism, women's work, and women's archives. In 2023, she edited *The Palgrave Handbook of Communist Women Activists around the World*, which has been published by Palgrave Macmillan.

### Expanding Our Research Agenda: Women From the Region in the World Women's Committee Against War and Fascism (WWCAWF, est. 1934)

Feminist historians are paying increasing attention to the World Women's Committee Against War and Fascism (WWC, also: Comité Mondial des Femmes or CMF) and its role as an international women's organization in the interwar period. We now know more of the WWC/CMF as co-initiator of "feminism for the Americas" (Katherine Marino, 2019), its role in France and some of its international outreach (Jasmine Calver, 2023), and its "substantial impact" on the Yugoslav women's movement of the interwar years (Isidora Grubacki, 2024). But this is only a beginning. The WWC/CMF was established at a congress in Paris in 1934. The existing historiography does not discuss all delegations of Western countries, although some of these were of considerable size. Nor does it discuss countries or member organizations from this region even though—according to the WWC/CMF's own sources—its founding congress was attended by women from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Yugoslavia.

In my lecture, I will first provide a short historiographical overview. What do we know of the WWC/CMF and its member organizations? Secondly, what can we find out about the WWC/CMF women and member organizations not yet included in the historiography? It will become clear that many of its participants were involved in well-known national and international women's organizations, then or later. Rather than seeing the WWC/CMF as a sort of anomaly in the international women's movement, as seems to have been the case until recently, I will argue that its history can help us better understand linkages between women's organizations, connections between women activists across Europe and through time, as well as the formative role of anti-fascism for a lot of women's activism.

Friday, November 29 / 9:30-10:30 a.m.

## Fatmagül Berktaş

Professor Emerita, Istanbul University



**Fatmagül Berktaş** is Professor Emerita of Political Science and Women's Studies and former Director of the Women's Research Centre of Istanbul University has been part of the Turkish Women's Movement since early 1980s. She acted as adviser to the state minister in charge of women's affairs and represented Turkey in various international forums including the UN 1995 Beijing Women's Conference. Her published books include *Being a Woman, Living and Writing* (in Turkish, 1991), *Woman in the Face of Monotheistic Religions* (in Turkish, 1996), *Women and Religion* (BlackRose Books, 1998), *The Gender of History* (in Turkish, 2003) which was also published in Arabic (Dar Kreideh, Beyrouth, 2009), *The Call of Politics* (in Turkish, 2010), *Loving the World in the Present, Hannah Arendt's Political Theory* (in Turkish, 2012) and *Ethics of Thinking* (in Turkish, 2021). She was designated as a leader in Education in Turkey and was part of "The Hope Brigade" of Women in the World (WOW) Festival (March 2021). Currently she is working on political ethics, political evil and feminist history.

### Women's struggle for rights is never ending

The interwar period in Turkey was a time of radical transformations. In 1923 a Republic was proclaimed ending the centuries old Ottoman Empire and the Sharia law which forbade the participation of women in the public space. Women and their social status were central to the reform agenda of the young republic which brought about the secularization of legal and educational structures. The new Civil and Penal codes replacing the Sharia provided for women's legal equality and enabled them to enter the public arena. In 1935 the 12th Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was held in Istanbul and also celebrated the recently introduced women's suffrage in Turkey. Secular laws indeed made a radical change in women's lives providing them with educational and career opportunities. However, discriminatory mentality, institutional structures and practices resisted to change as witnessed by the remaining biases in the secular civil and penal codes. Women's struggle for emancipation gained momentum after 1980's and especially in the 90's focused on the demand for abolishing those biases in the law. The struggle finally achieved its goal in 2001 when the said laws were amended in favor of gender equality. However now, after more than two decades of this achievement and when the 100th year of the Republic is being celebrated, women are faced with a backlash putting secularism and women's gained rights in jeopardy. This bears witness to the fact that women's rights are always fragile and that struggle for gaining and keeping them is a never ending process.



Conference Program

DAY 1

Thursday, November 28

08.30 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.30	Welcome & Introduction
09.30 - 10.30	<b>Keynote Address 1. “Expanding Our Research Agenda: Women From the Region in the World Women’s Committee Against War and Fascism (WWCAWF, est. 1934)”</b> <i>Francisca de Haan, Professor Emerita</i> Chair: Krassimira Daskalova, Professor
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 13.00	<b>Session 1. Feminism, National Politics, and International Diplomacy</b> Chair: Valentina Mitkova, Associate Professor
11.00 - 11.20	The Little Entente of Women: Feminist (Trans)Nationalism and Pacifism in ECE <i>Marijana Kardum, University of Zagreb</i>
11.20 - 11.40	Feminism, Politics, and Regional Diplomacy: From the Little Entente of Women to the Balkan Conference (1923-1939) <i>Katerina Dalakoura, University of Crete</i>
11.40 - 12.00	The Modern and National Turkish Woman as a Biopolitical Strategy in the Magazine Türk Kadın Yolu <i>Birsen Talay Keşoğlu, Beykoz University</i>
12.00 - 12.20	The Turkish Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period: Reflections of the Past <i>Ioannis Charokopos, University of Crete</i>
12.20 - 13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 15.30	Lunch break
15.30 - 17.30	<b>Session 2. National Associations, Transnational Collaborations: Nationalism and Internationalism</b> Chair: Ivana Pantelic, Senior Research Associate
15.30 - 15.50	Progressive Women’s Political Club and its Activity in International Women’s Organizations in Interwar Period <i>Katarzyna Sierakowska, Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences</i>
15.50 - 16.10	The Lyceum Club of Greek Women: An Approach to its International and Inter-Balkan Collaborations in the Interwar Period <i>Eleni Fournaraki, University of Crete</i>
16.10 - 16.30	Entangled Feminist Demands and National Priorities: Discourses on Women in the Romanian Women’s and Cultural Associations of Transylvania during the Interwar Period <i>Georgeta Fodor, “George Emil Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Târgu Mureş</i>
16.30 - 16.50	National Aims, Transnational Recognition: Turkish Women’s Movement in the Early Republican Period <i>Hale Överoğlu, Koç University</i>
16.50 - 17.30	Discussion
18.00	Welcome Reception



DAY 2

Friday, November 29

09.30 - 10.30	<b>Keynote Address 2. “Women’s struggle for rights is never ending”</b> <i>Fatmagül Berktaş, Professor Emerita</i> Chair: Katerina Dalakoura, Professor
10.30 - 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 - 13.00	<b>Session 3. Feminist Activists: Shaping National Narratives in Interwar Period</b> Chair: Georgeta Fodor, Associate Professor
11.00 - 11.20	Women, Writing and Politics in Interwar Albania. Musine Kokalari’s Life Writing, Political Involvement and Persecution in Communist Albania <i>Bavjola Gami Shatro, Aleksandër Moisiu University &amp; University of Mississippi</i>
11.20 - 11.40	Mira Kočonda Vodvarška - A Hidden Pioneer of Feminism in Croatia <i>Ida Ograjšek Gorenjak, University of Zagreb</i>
11.40 - 12.00	“How Do You Desire Us?": Olena Teliha and Situational Militaristic Femininity in Twentieth-Century Ukraine <i>Anastasiya Novatorskaya, Northwestern University</i>
12.00 - 12.20	Transnational Cooperation, National Tensions. The Criticism of Izabela Sadoveanu on Little Entente of Women <i>Giorgos Manios, Panteion University of Athens</i>
12.20 - 13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 15.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
15.30 - 17.00	<b>Session 4. War and Peace: Women’s and Feminist Pacifism</b> Chair: Marijana Kardum, Dr. Assistant Professor
15.30 - 15.50	Feminism and Pacifism: Regional and International Women’s Conferences in Interwar Yugoslavia <i>Ivana Pantelić &amp; Jasmina Milanović, Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade</i>
15.50 - 16.10	A Matter of Life and Death: War and Peace in the Political Thought of Feminist and Communist Women in Romania during the 1930’s <i>Alexandra Ghiț, University of Vienna</i>
16.10 - 16.30	Poor Greek Women during the Long Great War: War Experience, Politics and Conflict, 1914-1925 <i>George Chraniotis, Dr. Historian</i>
16.30 - 17.00	Discussion





DAY 3

Saturday, November 30

09.30 - 11.00	<b>Session 5. Socialist Feminisms' Agendas: Associations and Individuals</b> Chair: Eleni Fournaraki, Associate Professor
09.30 - 09.50	Feminisms, Pacifism, and Politics in Interwar Balkans/Europe through the Personal Life of Zheni Bozhilova-Pateva <i>Krassimira Daskalova, "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia</i>
09.50 - 10.10	The Bulgarian Women's Social-Democratic Union (1921-1934): Entanglements and Specifics of Feminist Strategies in the Interwar East-European Context <i>Valentina Mitkova, "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia</i>
10.10 - 10.30	Greek Socialist Women in International and Regional Initiatives in the Interwar Period: Ambiguous Trajectories <i>Eleftheria Papastefanaki, University of Crete</i>
10.30 - 11.00	Discussion
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.30 - 13.00	<b>Session 6. Researching Feminism and Politics: Methodological Issues - Approaches and Concepts</b> Chair: Eleftheria Zei, Associate Professor
11.30 - 11.50	Feminist Political thought in Interwar East-Central Europe: The Case of Alojzija Štebi <i>Isidora Grubački, Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana</i>
11.50 - 12.10	Connecting the Pieces: Documenting and Interlinking the History of Feminism with the Use of Comprehensive Information Management Systems <i>Pavlos Fafalios, Technical University of Crete &amp; FORTH-ICS, Lida Charami, Konstantina Konsolaki, Chrysoula Bekiari, FORTH-ICS</i>
12.10 - 12.30	Researching the Archives: The Silences of Marginalized Women Become Cries <i>Chryssa Kouliaki, Democritus University of Thrace</i>
12.30 - 13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 15.00	<b>Lunch break</b>
15.00 - 17.00	<b>Session 7. Women's Rights in Regional Context</b> Chair: Ida Gorenjak, Dr. Assistant Professor
15.00 - 15.20	Feminism and Women's Advocacy in Interwar Albania <i>Anna Batzeli, Democritus University of Thrace</i>
15.20 - 15.40	Feminist Discourses on the Body in Interwar Greece 1923-1936 <i>Kostas Tsampouras, University of Crete</i>
15.40 - 16.00	Children's Protection: An Aspect of the Feminist Social Politics in the Interwar Period <i>Vaia Vanessa Geragori, University of Crete</i>
16.00 - 16.20	The Little Entente of Women as a Multifaceted Feminist Association (1923-1929) <i>Dimitra Samiou, Hellenic Open University</i>
16.20 - 17.00	Discussion
17.00 - 18.00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
19.30	<b>Farewell Dinner</b>



## Session Presenters - Chairs

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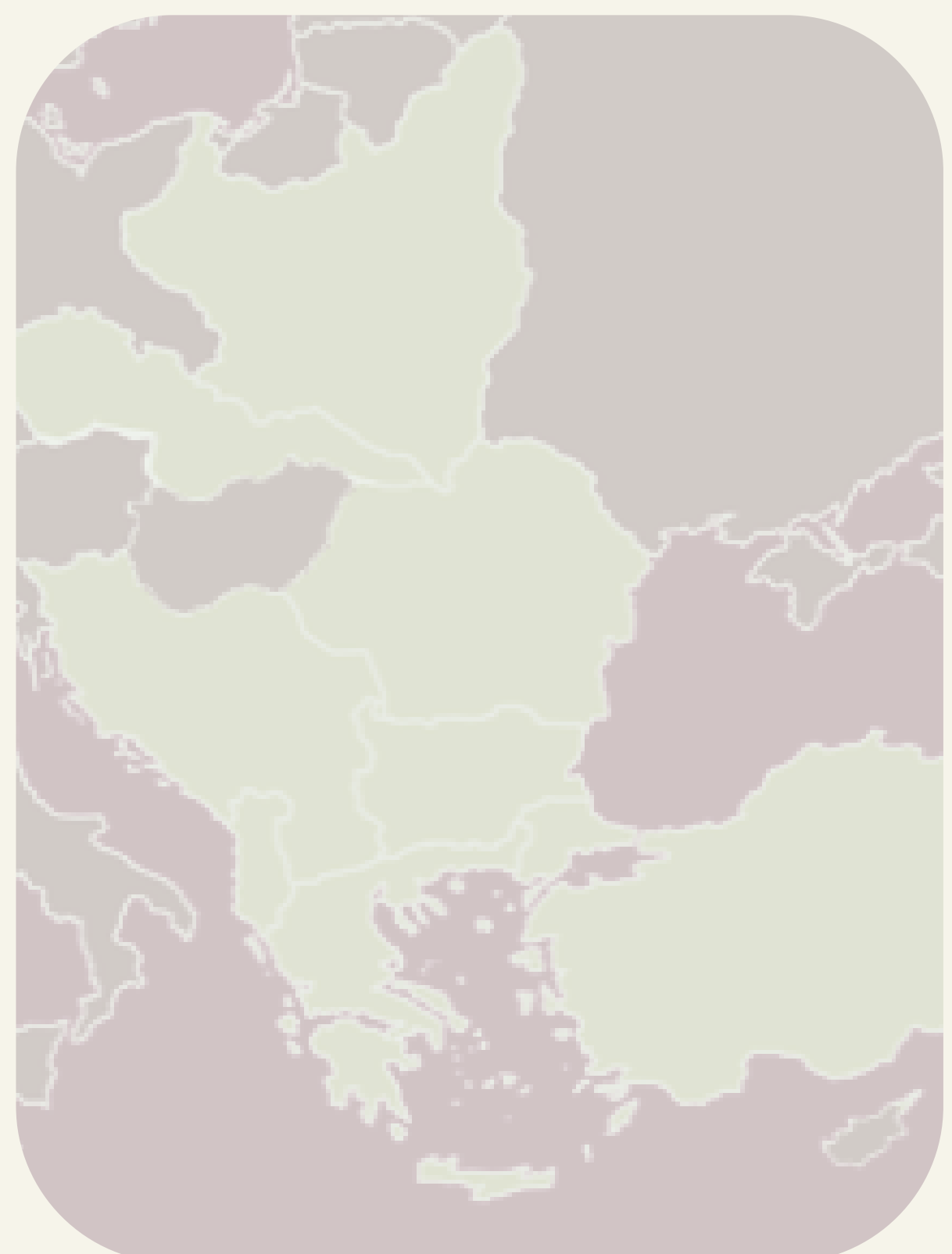
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## Sponsors



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