



EEMPS

**OUTPUT
SUMMARY**

MEDIANE

Media in Europe for Diversity Inclusiveness

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES OF MEDIA PRACTICES

Pair: **CMFE 07**

FAR AWAY, YET SO CLOSE

1. Exchange Partners

	Partner 1	Partner 2
Name and Surname	Sofia BRANCO	Claudia DAL-BIANCO
Job title	Journalist	Project coordinator
Organisation / Media	LUSA – Portuguese News Agency	Frauensolidaritaet - NGO

2. Summary

Is gender equality at stake in the European context of crisis and austerity measures? This was the leading question of our exchange, to which we have tried to respond by interviewing a wide range of experts in two countries – Austria and Portugal –, similar in population and size, but different on economic and social living conditions. Austria and Portugal are, at the same time, far away and so close. Apart all the differences, we have discovered something (unfortunately) in common: gender inequality is a reality at all levels. The dimension and extent of this finding are shocking. In Austria and Portugal, women are discriminated in several domains: they receive less money for the same job, they are accepted in less social valued jobs, they have difficulties on coming to the labour market after having children, they are more subject to precarious work (Portugal) and part-time work (Austria), they are the main doers of unpaid housework, they are the ones taking care of children, elderly, disabled people. Gender equality is suffering from the crisis, but was already not in a good shape before 2009. The structural problem may have worsened, but what is still lacking, in times of crisis or prosperity, is a structural change. Gender equality takes more than money and social protection, it requires a mindset reset.

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3. *Biographies of the authors*

SANDRA SOFIA BRANCO - *Portugal*

LUSA - News Agency of Portugal - www.lusa.pt



Lusa is the only News Agency in Portugal, mostly owned by the state, covering all Portuguese speaking countries, from Brazil to East Timor, including all African countries and Macau (in China), and also countries hosting a relevant Portuguese community, such as France or Switzerland. Working at LUSA involves domain of different platforms, and, as you may well know, the news agency is, much of the time, the primary source of information, playing a fundamental role on the way the messages are delivered.

I have been working as a professional journalist for 13 years, always committed to an independent and meaningful journalism. I am working in LUSA, where I have performed leading editor positions, managing teams and news agendas. I am currently a reporter at the international affairs desk. One example of my commitment to a concerned journalism is my investigation on female genital mutilation, awarded nationally and internationally (Natali Prize for Europe 2004). Since 2011, I represent Portugal at the European Institute for Gender Equality. I am regularly invited to lecture about Human Rights to students, public officials and civil society groups.



CLAUDIA DAL-BIANCO - *Austria*

Projectcoordinator - **Frauensolidarität / Women's Solidarity** - www.frauensolidaritaet.org



Frauensolidarität (Women's Solidarity) provides information, education and public relation about women in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as global power-relations from a feminist point of view. Frauensolidaritaet contributes with it's work to enhance the enforcement of women's rights and promotes a world free from sexism, racism and homophobia. As an organization based in development-policy, Frauensolidartität is in active dialogue with women's movements from the south, thus uniting and strengthening action by networking. This NGO is based in Vienna and exists since 1982. Frauensolidarität publishes a quarterly magazine, has a library and documentation centre, a radio show and projects on decent work and media.

I was born in Dec. 1983 in Vienna. I studied African Studies, and Development Studies at the University of Vienna. During my education I stayed in the USA (1 year); Lisbon, Portugal (6 months); Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (6 months). After my education I started to work at the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna, as a research assistant. Since 2 years I'm a project coordinator of the NGO Frauensolidarität. I also work as a freelance-trainer for political education in schools.

