

Programme – EPESEP Symposium & Literature Festival Störfeuer

Equal Pay, Equal Show, Equal Pension

Thursday, 1 October 2026

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Opening District Chair Michael Luxenberger

Welcome Gerlinde Hacker

English Writing Group – Presentation & Reading

The first evening is dedicated to the international English Writing Group, a central platform for exchange within the EPESEP project. Authors from different countries regularly come together to work on their texts and engage in an ongoing literary dialogue.

The group will introduce its approach and working process. This will be followed by readings of selected texts developed within this context, with authors sharing their experiences of writing together across linguistic and geographical borders.

Presentation of the English Writing Group

Gerlinde Hacker | Verena Levin | Aishwarya Ariyaratne

Presentation of the Partner Organisations

Mateja Jančar – Women Writers Route, Slovenia

Augusta Laar – Schamrock, Germany

Ani Manukyan – TodayArt, Armenia

Readings

Augusta Laar | Aishwarya Ariyaratne | Gerlinde Hacker | Kholoud Charaf | Mehak Gupta | Susanne Darabas | Verena Levin | Behnaz Amani | Leonora Flis

Followed by a conversation with the authors and an exchange with the audience.

Informal gathering with drinks and buffet

Friday, 2 October 2026

3:00 – 8:00 pm

Welcome Gerlinde Hacker

Opening Address Marlene Streeruwitz

Welcome Address and Statement Elfriede Jelinek, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature

Presentation of Research Findings & Discussion

The research institute FORBA presents key findings on the situation of women authors. The focus is on working conditions, income structures, visibility and structural inequalities in the literary field. In addition, an action plan with concrete proposals and possible measures to improve the situation of women authors will be presented.

Session 1: FORBA – Qualitative Findings

Followed by questions, discussion, statements and mosaic texts.

Session 2: FORBA – Quantitative Findings

Followed by questions, discussion, statements and mosaic texts.

Session 3: FORBA – Action Plan

Followed by questions, discussion, statements and mosaic texts.

Statements

Claudia Bergermayer | Katrin Bernhardt | Beatrice Frasl | Petra Ganglbauer | Monika Gentner | Gertraud Klemm | Andrea Kerstinger | Norma Norvald | Marlen Schachinger | Susanne Sommer | Samira Rauner | Marie Höfel | Pauline Rensing | Julia L. Hofmarcher

Refreshment Break

From 6:00 pm

International Reading

Gertraud Klemm | Beatrice Frasl | Petra Ganglbauer | Marlen Schachinger | Hannah Oppolzer | Mehak Gupta | Susanne Sommer | Monika Gentner | Kholoud Charaf | Eva Surma

Authors from Austria and the project's partner countries read from their recent work. The readings bring together personal, literary and political perspectives. The authors come from Iran, Syria, India, Austria, Germany and beyond.

Informal gathering with drinks and buffet

Saturday, 3 October 2026

3:00 – 8:00 pm

Welcome and Mosaic Text Gerlinde Hacker

Welcome Address and Statement Elfriede Jelinek, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature

FemLit – Presentation of the Feminist Reading List & Panel Discussion

Presentation

Hannah Oppolzer – #igfem, Austria

Mateja Jančar – Women Writers Route, Slovenia

Susanne Darabas – Schamrock, Germany

Ani Manukyan – TodayArt, Armenia

The FemLit reading list developed as part of the project will be presented. It brings together a broad selection of women authors and highlights the diversity of feminist literature. The subsequent panel discussion explores questions of canon formation, visibility and the mediation of feminist literature.

Panel

Beate Hausbichler | Beatrice Frasl | Ilse Rollet | Hannah Oppolzer | Gerlinde Hacker | Stefanie Schlögl

From 6:00 pm

Reading & AutorinnenTextChor – Collective Performance

The programme concludes with the AutorinnenTextChor, a performative condensation of texts created within the project. Voices come together, texts are spoken collectively, transforming individual writing into a shared experience. Individual voices step forward, meet one another, overlap, and amplify each other. Out of these different texts and perspectives emerges a shared resonance space, one that takes up the symposium's themes once more, both literarily and performatively.

Direction

Waltraud Schopf-Suchy

Participants

dan*ela beuren | Ingrid Draxl | Elisabeth Farkashazy | Gerlinde Hacker | Judith Haunold | Julia Heiligenbrunner | Andrea Kerstinger | Verena Levin | Katrina Mogler | Melissa Nielsen | Martina Onyegbula | Susanne Sommer | Eva Surma

Informal gathering with drinks and buffet

Mosaic Texts – Performative Interventions – On All Three Days

Short mosaic texts will be read between the presentations. They connect the individual contributions and create literary transitions. Texts from the reading list as well as statements by women authors – including responses to the findings of the FORBA study – will be taken up and placed within the broader context of the project.

The EU-project **EPESEP – Equal Pay, Equal Show, Equal Pension** is jointly implemented by:

#igfem – Interessensgemeinschaft Feministische Autorinnen (Austria)

www.igfem.at

www.igfem.eu

www.femlit.eu

Schamrock e. V. (Germany)

www.schamrock.org

Today Art Initiative (Armenia)

www.todayart.org

Women Writers Route (Slovenia)

www.womenwriter.eu

FixDit (Netherlands) was a project partner until 2025.

www.fixdit.nu

Further Information:

support@igfem.at

Cooperation partner GAV – Grazer Autor*innenversammlung: www.gav.at

Co-funded by:

