

EUROCHAMBRES WOMEN NETWORK (EWN) CONCEPT NOTE

Objectives

Although women constitute 52% of the total European population, they represent only 34.4% of the EU self-employed and 30% of start-up entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurial potential is thus an under-exploited source of economic growth and job creation, that should be further developed. The aim of the EWN is to contribute to untapping this potential and to give a stronger voice to women entrepreneurs in Europe.

Areas of activity

The EWN will focus on the following areas of activity:

Identify the challenges that women entrepreneurs face and come up with concrete suggestions to tackle them

When starting up and running a business, women face more difficulties than men, mainly in access to finance, access to information, access to networks for business purposes and reconciling business and family concerns. The EWN members will identify the main challenges hampering the development of women entrepreneurship, discuss possible solutions to tackle them and present their views to relevant policy-makers.

Identify and disseminate good practices to support female entrepreneurship (e.g. relating to mentoring and coaching, targeted advice, etc.)

Chambers of Commerce and Industry have various initiatives in place to support women entrepreneurship. Successful initiatives should be collected and promoted at European level in order to increase their visibility and encourage the development of similar activities in other countries.

Share success stories of women entrepreneurs

The EWN will collect and share success stories of female entrepreneurship with a view to promoting women entrepreneurs as role models and to present entrepreneurship as an exciting career opportunity for women and girls.

Discuss relevant policy developments

Policy developments affecting (women) entrepreneurship as well as forthcoming programmes and initiatives will be discussed within the EWN.

Networking

The EWN will serve as a platform to share knowledge about relevant initiatives, events, networking and funding opportunities. The EWN will itself enable networking among the participating female entrepreneurs and chamber representatives.

Structure and organisation of the EWN

The EWN, chaired by Martha Schultz, Vice-President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, is composed of 1-3 women representatives per country, nominated by the respective national Delegations (see Annex I).

The members of the EWN will meet once or twice a year, possibly on the fringes of EUROCHAMBRES' flagship events or major events relating to Women Entrepreneurship.

With the exception of the kick-off meeting, the meetings of the EWN will include the participation of a guest speaker (e.g. MEP, European Commission official, entrepreneur, etc.)

The organisation and coordination of activities of the EWN lays within EUROCHAMBRES.

Annex I: List of members of the EWN

COUNTRY	NAME	SURNAME	TITLE
Austria	Martha	Schultz	Chair of the EWN and Vice President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber
Armenia	Lilya	Gevorgyan	Advisor to President on Women Entrepreneurship
Belgium	Anne	Georges	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Šejla	Delić	Head of President's office
Bulgaria	Radka	Stamenova	Chairperson of Association for Women entrepreneurs
Cyprus	Mary	Papadopoulou	President BPW Cyprus
Croatia	Dragica	Martinović	Croatian Chamber of Economy
Estonia	Piret	Potisepp	Director of Services at the Estonian Chamber of Commerce
France	Fany	Ruin	President CCI Amiens - Picardie
France	Anne-Sophie	Panseri	CCI Lyon
Germany	Sandra	Hartig	Managing Director
Germany	Kathrin	Jaenecke	Director relations with EU
Greece	Eirini	Konstantinidou	Delegate
Greece	Apostolina	Tsaltampasi	Entrepreneur

Hungary	Maria	Stark	Director International Department
Hungary	Monika	Forró	BXL office
Italy	Tiziana	Pompei	Deputy Secretary General
Italy	Chiara	Gaffuri	Policy advisor at Unioncamere
Lithuania	Daiva	Jonuškienė	
Montenegro	Ljiljana	Filipovic	Vice President
Russia	Elena	Medvedeva	Delegate
Turkey	Ebru	Aydin	Advisor
Ireland	Emma	Kerins	EU and International Affairs Manager
Ireland	Lorraine	Greene	Entrepreneur
Ireland	Josephine	Browne	Entrepreneur
Serbia	Branislava	Simanić	Director Entrepreneurship sector, Serbia Chamber of Commerce
Spain	Maria	Tosca	Director for Employment, Training and Entrepreneurship Chamber of Commerce of Spain
Ukraine	Elvira	Sevostianenko	President, Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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