

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 EWN is to contribute to untapping this potential and to give a stronger voice to women entrepreneurs in Europe.

Areas of activity

EWN will focus on the following areas of activity:

Identifying challenges that women entrepreneurs face and developing concrete suggestions how to overcome 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. 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.

Identifying and disseminating good practices to support female entrepreneurship

Chambers of Commerce and Industry have various initiatives in place to support women entrepreneurship (e.g. relating to mentoring and coaching, targeted advice, etc.). Successful initiatives will be collected and promoted at European level in order to increase their visibility and encourage the development of similar activities in other countries.

Sharing success stories of women entrepreneurs

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

Discussing relevant policy developments

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

Networking

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



Structure and organisation of EWN

EWN is chaired by a president. The network is composed of 1-3 female representatives per country, nominated by the respective national Delegations, members of EUROCHAMBRES.

Mrs. Martha Schultz, Vice-President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, is the current network president.

The organisation and coordination of the network's activities is taken care of by EUROCHAMBRES.

EWN members will meet once or twice a year, possibly on the fringes of EUROCHAMBRES' flagship events or major events relating to Women Entrepreneurship. The meetings will be an occasion for members to network with each other, exchange information and best practices and to be briefed on the European political context related to female entrepreneurship, thanks to the contribution of guest speakers.

For any further information about EUROCHAMBRES Women network, you can contact Ms. Birgit Arens, tel. +32 2 282 08 57, e-mail: arens@eurochambres.eu