

Newsletter #3 - March 2011

Welcome to Winnet8

An active autumn behind and an active spring ahead in Winnet 8

We are now well into the second year of Winnet8. The efforts of the partnership to accomplish all the activities and tasks in Component 3: The transfer of good practices into EU Structural Funds Mainstream programme are beginning to bring fruit. For bringing us to this stage, there has been the training of the process coaches, the study visits programme, writing and collecting the Good Practises and the two thematic workshops. Also the regional Multi Actor Groups have had their meetings and discussions, research literature has been compiled and studied and expert articles have been written.

The first part of the project has been about learning to know each other better. It has also helped to define the objectives individual regions have and we all - as the Winnet 8 partnership - have in line to the ones set in the project proposal. The next step has been to collect data, exchange experiences, compare good practices from different regions - and through that learn from each other. Now we are compiling all that into regional Action Plans, in which we describe how we plan to transfer and implement what we have observed and learnt.

From the very beginning on the agenda have been the ways this project can promote equality in work life through different policy levels and especially how it can support Women's Resource Centres to become a tool to both implement and develop those policies. To achieve this key objective the Consultation Process for creating a Policy Document of Winnet 8 is now in progress. It is open for everybody, who is interested to participate and comment on, both a specific consultation for Winnet 8 partner's key stakeholders and a public consultation for non-partners and key stakeholders.

You will find further information for the consultation on the following link and you are welcome to contribute;

"Women Resource Centre's Promoting Innovation in Gender Equality across Europe" in the Regional Policy and Operational Policy and Program after 2013 and with linkage to EU 2020 strategy. <http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?pageid=260376>

Pia Kattelus, responsible for Component 3, Transfer of good practices



Pia Kattelus works as a Continuing Education Coordinator at University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute in Seinäjoki, Finland. She plans and implements projects and continuing education programmes that relate to regional development and innovation activities from local to transnational levels. In Winnet 8 she coordinates the activities of Component 3.



The project Winnet8 - what are the goals with the project?

The overall objective with the project Winnet8 is to contribute to regional growth by improving women's participation in the labour market focusing on:

- Horizontally segregated labour markets
- The lack of women in innovation and technology
- The lack of women in entrepreneurship

The project aims to shape regional, national and EU-level policies and development programmes that relate to women's status in the labour market and ensure these policies are integrated into mainstream provision.

What happened in the Winnet8 project during the autumn and winter of 2010/2011?

In this Newsletter we publish a short summary of the work shops in Italy in November 2010. We also describe the work with the Good practice Guide and the Action Plans. You can also read about the Multi Actor Groups (MAG:s) - the heart of Winnet8.

Workshops in Italy

About 50 representatives of the project partners, members of their regional Multi Actor Groups and other stakeholders of Winnet8 met at the end of November 2010 in Venice, Italy at two workshops. On the island of San Servolo we discussed about the more general theme of gender segregation and about the more detailed theme of how to ensure transfer of good practises in Winnet8.

Gender segregation was tackled through comparing the segregation in different European countries, learning about some Good Practises in Italy and Scotland and discussions in four thematic groups: Women's Resource Centres as empowering tools; Women in ICT – a tool for Gender Equal growth!; Women and entrepreneurship: are there gender specific challenges? and Women in Labour market and leadership and management: do they do it in a different way and is that way the correct one?

The second workshop had as an introduction a presentation on “searching for a framework and tools to enhance gendering local and regional development” followed by Good Practises from Italy and Sweden. After that there was a summary of the Study Visit reports of partners and a Learning Café session to further evaluate the experiences of the Study Visits programme.

According to the feedback from the participants, the thematic workshops were interesting, but there was also a strong feeling of the need to go forward. It was time to stop defining and just discussing – now we needed to start planning the concrete future actions, setting the stronger framework for Women's Resource centres as a tool for implementing planned actions and policies and creating the Policy Document to influence key stakeholders on different levels.



Good Practice Guide

Winnet8-project will publish during spring 2011 a Good Practice Guide presenting over 40 Good Practices from all the partner countries. The Good Practice descriptions will have crucial role in the regional Action Plans the partners are writing in cooperation with their stakeholders, as the Good Practices that will be transferred in the implementation phase of the Action Plans, will be introduced in the Guide.

The Good Practice Guide will include case descriptions of projects funded by the Structural Funds of the European Union in themes like gender segregation, counselling, awareness rising, entrepreneurship and leadership. The Guide will be available and open to use for all interested on the website of Winnet8.

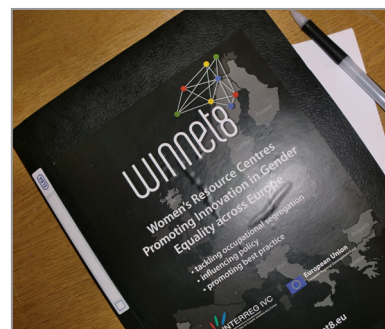


Action Plans

The Regional Action Plans are one of the Key Products of Winnet8-project. As it is a Capitalisation Project, will each participating region

- describe the development needs of their regions with regard to the objectives of the project: to increase the number of women in work life, to decrease segregation, to encourage women to participate to ICT and other technological sectors, to support women in participating to innovation activities and also to help them to establish enterprises
- describe the present situation in the region
- choose from the Good Practices presented by other partner regions those most interesting and relevant to their own to be transferred
- and describe how the transfer could be done

The first drafts of the Action Plans will be presented in the Mid-Conference of Winnet8 in Seinäjoki, Finland on the 16th of March.





Multi Actor Groups – MAGs

The MAGs create the heart of Winnet8, as they consist in each partner region of the key persons and organisations for influencing the policies and development programmes and implementing the Action Plans. MAG members should represent all the quadruple helix partners (public sector, private sector, the third sector/citizens and development and research), but the emphasis varies in different regions depending on the most important challenges to meet.

MAGs will have at least six regional meetings during the project for discussing the topical tasks and how to tackle them. Their members also participate to the transnational activities of the programme. After the Winnet8-project is finished, the MAG work continues as an “implementation network” of the activities and development project described in the Action Plans. Both during the project and after it, the Process Coach of the MAG supports its work together with the project partners in the ways that each of the MAGs experience best.

Consultation Process

WINNET8 intends to shape a set of proposals and policy recommendations on how best to integrate gendered perspectives within the EU 2020 Strategy and the European Union's future territorial cohesion policy from 2014 and onwards. The partnership will contribute with regional action plans approaches for implementation of gendered perspectives into the Regional Operation Program (ROP) with support from Women Resource Centers (WRC).

We welcome contributions from public authorities, organisations, civil society, citizens and Interreg IVC Winnet8, Capitalisation project partners and non-partners at European, National, regional and local levels in EU 27 member states. Read more and submit your contribution <http://www.winnnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?pageid=260376>



Next phase – Beyond consultation

After the consultation process 8 national round tables across 9 regions will take place with policy and decision makers in April 2011. Followed by 4 round tables in the South, West, East and North zones of Europe during the period May to September 2011. The round tables will develop policy recommendations and regional action plans to be implemented beyond the project period.

Publishing of Contributions

All contributions will be published, on the website for WINNET8 www.winnnet8.eu in April, 2011.

Next newsletter

Next Newsletter from Winnet8 will be published in May 2011.

Agenda winter and spring of 2011

- Steering Group meeting in Seinäjoki. Finland
- Researcher workshop, Seinäjoki. Finland
- Midterm conference, Seinäjoki. Finland
- National Round Table meetings