

## Newsletter #1 - September 2010

### Welcome to Winnet8

Regional growth by improving women's participation in the labour market

I am excited about leading this work to improve women's opportunities on the labour market. In many of the member countries in European Union women is an untapped resource. The project especially focuses on the lack of women in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship and the goal is to contribute to regional growth through gender equal companies and organizations.

Several Swedish reviews show that companies with both men and women, at management level, grow faster with higher revenues and have more satisfied employees than companies with none or very few women at decision level.

Our challenge is to produce Regional Action Plans for the next programme period in order to contribute to gender equality and our most important tools are the regional Multi-Actor Groups, MAGs. They consist of people that represent all the quadruple helix groups; politicians, administrators, entrepreneurs and researchers.



Carin Nises is the International Coordinator of Winnet8 and chairwoman of the Steering Group. She represents the Lead Partner, The Municipality of Älvdalen. She has a long experience as manager for several companies in the manufacturing industry, all very male dominated.



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

The overall objective with the project Winnet 8 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.

The partners from 8 European countries and 9 regions will work together to build on good practices developed and identified in previous projects for attracting women into nontraditional fields. Through interregional exchange of best practices, study visits and research, 9 action plans, on how to implement Women Resource Centre's, will be developed which will enable the improvement of women's status on the labour market.

### What has happened in the Winnet8 project during the first eight months?

In this Newsletter we will publish a short summary of the bigger events and inform about what has happened during the period January – August 2010. For more information visit [www.winnet8.eu](http://www.winnet8.eu)

## Launching Conference in Tällberg, Sweden – kick off!

The 15-17th of February 2010 approximately sixty persons, partners and stakeholders engaged in the Winnet 8 project, met for the first time in a cold and wintery Sweden. The conference was held in the beautiful village of Tällberg, situated in the area of Dalecarlia, a typical Swedish holiday resort by the lake of Siljan.

Partners from seven countries joined the conference; Finland, Poland, Scotland, Greece, Portugal, Bulgaria and Sweden. The issue for this meeting was to get everybody started and informed about the coming process. All partners presented their organizations and their expectations. Local Swedish dishes were served during lunch and dinner in the old buildings of Åkerblads Gästgiveri. The kick off for Winnet 8 was a success!



## MAG's and Process coach training in Évora, Portugal

Regional Multi Actor Groups has been formed to act as an arena for co-operation between Managing Authorities, local and regional authorities, businesses, research institutions, Women's Resource Centers and other NGO's.

The 20-23th of June an International training for process coaches was arranged by the University of Évora, Portugal. The participants consisted of partners and MAG members who learnt about and shared experiences of gender relations in different regions, women in the power structures and group processes and interaction.

Approximately forty persons joined the training from almost all partner regions.

Évora is a beautiful old town with an extraordinary architecture. The University, where the training took place, is dated 1559 and was one of first in Europe. It was three sunny days with humid and warm temperature over 35 degrees celsius. The hosting partners arranged lunches and dinners with local Portuguese dishes served with local wine. The participants enjoyed the hospitality and the educating days in Portugal!



## Steering Group – the board of the Winnet8 project

The Steering Group of Winnet 8 is the board of the project. One person is represented from each country. There have been two Steering Group meetings during the past six months. The president of the Steering Group is Carin Nises, international coordinator, Municipality of Älvdalen, Sweden.

The first meeting was held in connection to the first Partnership Meeting in Tällberg, Sweden. The second meeting was held in connection to the International training in Portugal where some of the topics on the agenda was communication strategy, schedule for the study visits during the fall of 2010 and the progress of the MAG:s.

A working group (WG) for Communication and Dissemination has also been established as a support for the Steering Group and partners.



## Workshops

A goal in the project is to present "Best practices" in small workshops held during the project period.

The first workshop was held on the 17th of February in Tällberg, Sweden arranged by W7 Dalarna and Saga, both Best Practices from Sweden. The project coordinators explained about their daily work with the issues of women entrepreneurship, segregated labour market and lack of women in higher positions on the labour market.

There will be workshops held continuously during the fall/winter 2010/2011.





## The use of modern technology – an important way to communicate in the project

To be able to communicate with the different partners in the project the use of the internet is essential.

The work with creating the webpage [www.winnet8.eu](http://www.winnet8.eu) has been one of the main topics in the communication strategy made by Component 2 in cooperation with Component 3. The website [www.winnet8.eu](http://www.winnet8.eu) is connected to the websites of Winnet Sweden and linked to [www.winneteurope.org](http://www.winneteurope.org) to ensure that the results of the project will be spread in the future. The project result will be a Data and Competence Bank for gender equality. The Public website will be a hub for all information to partners and other interested actors for communication and dissemination of information related to the Winnet 8 project

The internal forum will give possibilities to create chat, forum and to spread information and documents between partners. The modern technologies open up new ways of connecting to each other, to educate and see new ways to cooperate.

## Next newsletter

The next News Letter from Winnet8 will be published in November 2010.

## Agenda fall/winter of 2010/2011

- Steering Group meeting, Scotland
- Partnership meeting, Scotland
- MAG meetings
- Study visits
- Two Thematic workshops, Italy
- Steering Group meeting, Finland
- Midterm conference, Finland
- Research work shop, Finland
- National round tables