



BPW Europe
Business and Professional Women



[BPW EUROPE LOBBY & ADVOCACY POLICY ADVISORS](#)

[REPORT](#)

PRESIDENTS MEETING

WIEN 27-29 APRIL 2018

Dear Presidents, Dear Members,

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR TERM, WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN MONITORING POLICIES WHICH SET OUT BY EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS (I.E., EUROPEAN COMMISSION, COUNCIL OF EUROPE, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT), OTHER EUROPEAN BODIES (EIGE, EWL, GEMA, ETC), AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL BODIES (I.E. UN, UN WOMEN), ABOUT SEVERAL MATTERS INVOLVING WOMEN.

WE LOOKED UP AND SCREENED CALLS, ROADMAPS, CONSULTATIONS, LAWS, SUBJECTS AND EU ACTIONS WHICH DEAL THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS, GENDER GAP, EMPLOYEMENT, ENTERPRISE, INTERNAL MARKET, SME, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PAY GAP.

AS BPW POLICY ADVISORS, WE SEND OUR PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER AND REPORT.

IN NOVEMBER 2017, DANUBE NET TOOK PLACE IN WIEN, A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, CHAIRED BY REGION COORDINATOR PINELLA BOMBACI, IN PRESENCE OF BPW INTERNATIONAL AMANY ASFOUR, AND BPW INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL TREASURER GIUSY SEIDITA.



DURING THE MEETING, ORGANIZED BY MARION VOLK AND HELD BY BPW AUSTRIA, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE BPW EUROPE CLUBS AND FEDERATION, AS WELL THE SPEAKERS, FOCUSED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT 4.0, THE FINANCE ACCESS FOR FEMALE ENTREPREUNERSHIP, THE RURAL ECONOMY. THE FINAL WORKSHOP WAS SO THRILLING!!!

ON JANUARY 2018, WE ALSO SET OUT THE **FACEBOOK GROUP**, CALLED “**BPW EUROPE LOBBY & ADVOCACY POLICY ADVISORS**”, OPEN TO BPW EUROPE PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS, IN WHICH THEY CAN SHARE, READ AND COMMENT FASTER AND FASTER ISSUES, NEWS, CALLS, INCEPTIONS AND ROADMAPS, FROM EUROPEAN UNION. THIS CHOICE HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE NEEDS OF EVERYBODY TO BE CONNECTED AND INVOLVED IN SOCIAL NETWORK TO GET AKNOWLEDGE OF NEWS AND ISSUES AS MANY AS POSSIBLE IN REAL TIME. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT AND JOIN UP.



BPW Europe Lobby & Advocacy Policy Advisors

OVERVIEW

BY GOING OVER THE 2017 AND THE FIRST MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2018, EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) ISSUES, GENDER EQUALITY SEEMS TO MOVE FROM THE JUSTICE AREA TO

MARKET AREA. THIS POINT OF VIEW OF EC ITSELF, MAY COMPLY THE CURRENT NEEDS OR PRIORITIES OF SOCIAL CONTEXT AND SHOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE RELATED SOLVING PROBLEM ACTIVITY. AS WELL AS GENDER GAPS REMAIN, IN THE LABOUR MARKET, WOMEN ARE STILL OVER-REPRESENTED IN LOWER PAID SECTORS AND UNDER-REPRESENTED IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS, AS WELL IN REPRESENTATIVE BODIES.

NEVERTHELESS, CURRENTLY, WE CAN SEE THAT THE EU ACTION MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES AND ADVOCATES TO DEAL WITH GENDER ASPECTS AS A CROSS-CUTTING AND RIGHTS-BASED ISSUE THAT HAS TO DEAL ITSELF WITH AT THE INTERFACES OF ALL POLICY FIELDS (ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, NO-DISCRIMINATION, MIGRATION, INCLUSION, DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET, ENERGY, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT).

THE PAY GAP IS FACING AND TACKLED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS: IN JANUARY 2018, IN ICELAND THE **EQUAL PAY LAW** CAME INTO FORCE. SEVERAL EU MEMBER STATES OR ORGANIZATIONS ENHANCE CAMPAIGNS ABOUT THE PAY GAP, LIKE EQUAL PAY GAP, PROMOTED BY BPW EUROPE.



MAIN KEY FINDINGS

ON 17th NOVEMBER 2017, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROCLAIMED **THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS** AT THE SOCIAL SUMMIT, CO-HOSTED BY PRESIDENT JUNCKER AND PRIME MINISTER OF SWEDEN. OUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR, PINELLA BOMBACI RECEIVED THE NEWS ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT IMPORTANT PILLAR. IT BUILDS UPON 20 KEY PRINCIPLES, STRUCTURED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET, FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION, STATING GENDER EQUALITY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE.

ON 4 APRIL 2017, BPW EUROPE CALLED FOR ASSOCIATE CLUBS & FEDERATION TO PROVIDE WOMEN REFUGEES SUPPORT TO FIND A JOB, UPON A RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY FIDAPA BPW ITALY.



EU COMMISSION

WE CAN READ NOW THE BRAND NEW PUBLICATION **THE EUROPEAN UNION WHAT IT IS WHAT IT DOES** THAT DESCRIBES WHAT EU DOES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN EUROPE AND HOW THE EU TAKES ACTION.

WE CAN SURVEY THE CALLS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL AFFAIRS & INCLUSION, THE ISSUE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FINANCE TO IMPLEMENT **PARIS AGREEMENT** AND THE PROBLEMS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

A MATTER OF OUR INTEREST IS DEALT BY EVALUATION ROADMAP FEEDBACK IN THE FIELDS OF CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE-BUILDING.

OVERCOMING GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL SKILLS IS A TRUE COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE WOMEN IN STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART AND MATHS) SUBJECTS AND GET THE ATTAINMENT OF BETTER RESULTS IN THESE FIELDS.

CONSULTATIONS: SME DEFINITION, WEEK OF SPORT, TRANSPARENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE EU RISK IN THE FOOD CHAIN (RISK OF ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION) ENVIRONMENT, SINGLE MARKET, DIGITAL ECONOMY)



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

THIS BODY EXPRESSES ITS POSITION ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES ARE ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ABOUT EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION AND SO-CALLED LEGAL AVENUES.

OTHER BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EIGE (EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY) REPORTS ABOUT LABOUR SHORTAGES IN THE SECTOR ICT, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PROMOTING FATHERHOOD AND ACTIVE FATHERING, ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE BECAUSE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A PERVASIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, HORIZONTAL SEGREGATION (CONCENTRATION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN DIFFERENT SECTORS AND OCCUPATIONS).

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IS ACTING AGAINST MINORITY DISCRIMINATION.

EURACTIVE IS ACTING TO BOOSTING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS ANNUAL MEETING 2018: THE GREAT QUOTE HAS BEEN “**FINALLY A REAL PANEL, NOT A MANEL**” BY CHRISTINE LAGARDE. IT CONCERNED, AMONG SEVERAL MATTERS, THE CLIMATE CHANGE, TERRORISM AND THE BACKLASH AGAINST GLOBALIZATION, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES.

EWL (EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY) UNDERTOOK A **GROUNDBREAKING STUDY** TO UNDERSTAND THE WOMAN-LED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, THAT IT BRINGS AND ENTAILS WELL BEING OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, HEALTHCARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION, MOTIVATIONS, NEEDS, CHALLENGES AND MORE ATTENTION FOR DISABILITIES.

OECD (ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AND EU COMMISSION PUBLISH **POLICY BRIEF ON WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP**: “IMPROVING DEDICATED BUSINESS INCUBATOR, BUSINESS ACCELERATOR AND THE CREATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RISK... PROMOTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AS ROLE MODELS AND ENSURING THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IS GENDER-NEUTRAL AND DOES NOT DISCOURAGE WOMEN FROM GOING INTO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) FIELDS”.

EU MEMBER STATES (27), AND THE EU ITSELF, HAVE RATIFIED THE UNITED NATIONS **CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)**, COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVING INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

OUTLOOK

“ON CURRENT TRENDS, THE OVERALL GLOBAL GENDER GAP CAN BE CLOSED IN EXACTLY 100 YEARS ACROSS THE 106 COUNTRIES COVERED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE REPORT, COMPARED TO 83 YEARS LAST YEAR. THE MOST CHALLENGING GENDER GAPS REMAIN IN THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH SPHERES. GIVEN THE CONTINUED WIDENING OF THE ECONOMIC GENDER GAP, IT WILL NOW NOT BE CLOSED FOR ANOTHER 217 YEARS. HOWEVER, THE EDUCATION-SPECIFIC GENDER GAP COULD BE REDUCED TO PARITY WITHIN THE NEXT 13 YEARS. THE POLITICAL DIMENSION CURRENTLY HOLDS THE WIDEST GENDER GAP AND IS ALSO THE ONE EXHIBITING THE MOST PROGRESS, DESPITE A SLOWDOWN IN PROGRESS THIS YEAR. IT COULD BE CLOSED WITHIN 99 YEARS. THE HEALTH GENDER GAP IS LARGER THAN IT STOOD IN 2006.” (THE GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2017, KEY FINDINGS, P.VIII).

A big hug to all of you

Henrike and Raffaella

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