

## Report Task Force Leadership and Lifelong Learning -2017 to April 2018

This report covers the following points:

- Our mission
- Our activities
  - PEP (Personal Empowerment Program) Courses for participants and trainers
  - LTW (Leadership Training for Women) Courses for participants and trainers
- Task Force meetings
- Talks, presentations , translations and publishing by Task Force members
- Closing remarks

### Our Mission

The members of the Task Force Leadership and Lifelong Learning believe that offering BPW member affordable leadership and communication trainings is of vital importance, especially since these courses incorporate the “BPW spirit” and valuable possibilities for networking and developing personal friendships. In the past 3 years we helped the implementation of the past international motto: **Making a Difference through Leadership and Action**”. In my opinion it is not enough to help women to reach leadership positions or to increase the awareness of gender equality, but to give the women the necessary leadership tool, so that they **succeed**.

**The mission of our Task Force also fits the current motto of BPW International: *Empowering women to realize sustainable development goals.***

**Profiles of all active trainers can be accessed on our webpage: <http://bpw-III.weebly.com/>**

### Our Activities

#### PEP Certification Course

- The next big PEP Certification Course will be in Malta from April 6 to 7, 2018. This is organized in cooperation with BPW Malta and a high number of participants is expected. The exact number is unclear as this report is written.

#### PEP Trainings (Personal Empowerment Program)

PEP is now available in **five languages** (English, German, Italian, French, and some parts in Spanish) and each European country is giving the program its own drift, e.g. in Italy more importance is placed on organizational and time management skills and in Germany on presentation skills.

#### Some examples of the many activities that were running:

- Ingrid Asche, Club Regensburg, Germany, involved the PEP training in a mentoring project 31.03.-01.04.2017.
- The next big PEP Training will be in Malta from April 6 to 7, 2018. This is organized in cooperation with BPW Malta and a high number of participants is expected. The exact number is unclear as this report is written.

- Sabine Küsters and Eveline Kaik held a PEP training in 2017 in Düsseldorf and Cologne, Germany
- There were a number of Leadership Trainings based on PEP in **Estonia**, run by Ester Eomois and Leena Kivisild.

### **Leadership Training for Women (LTW) Course**

Another important project of the Task Force is the development of a special **Leadership Training Program for Women**. Kick-off for the development was in New York during the CSW in March 2014, after which a group of experienced trainers developed the contents and modules.

Several trainings have been held in Germany and Switzerland since then.

The following trainings were carried out to the full satisfaction of the participants in 2017/18:

- From 11. – 12.11.17 in Berne with Petya Barraud and Ann Wood as trainers. The training went very well as a small group gives more opportunities for participation and direct feedback from all participants and the trainers
- From 14. to 15. January 2017 in Düsseldorf with Sabine Küsters. A small group of engaged BPW Youngs took part.

### **Task Force Meetings**

#### **Report Task Force Meeting In Rome 20 to 23 April 2017**

The Task Force Leadership and Lifelong Learning had their 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting (after Munich, Tallinn, Munich and Trieste) in Rome from April 20 – 23, 2017

We were kindly invited by Italian National President Pia Petrucci and National Communication Office Bettina Giordani helped with the local organization. To keep costs down we could use the F.I.D.A.P.A office and as a compensation for this generosity the Task Force gave a workshop for the entire Italian Board including all the district presidents on Friday 21 April, 2017.

The topics were “Responsibilities of a Club President” by Antoinette Ruegg, “Lateral Leadership” by Elisabeth Liberda and “Motivating Volunteers” by Conny Montague. The translation was facilitated by Anna Cargnello.

All members of the Task Force took an active part in the workshops and thus intensified the contact to and cooperation with the Italian Team. The feedback we received through various channels was very positive and constructive.

The topics that the Task Force dealt with on the remaining days were:

1. The Situation of Leadership Trainings in Estonia delivered by Ester Eomois
2. The activities of BPW Malta delivered by Ingrid Eomois
3. The emotional versus the rational mind delivered by Antoinette Ruegg
4. Verbal Aikido – how react in conflict situations delivered by Sabine Küsters
5. The importance of Personal Branding delivered by Rodica Fridez
6. “Trello” as a tool to plan projects delivered by Anna Cargnello
7. Introduction to the BPW Academy delivered by Sabine Schmelzer

We also plan Train-the-Trainer Workshops for both the PEP and the Leadership Training for Women programs to widen our trainer base. The next one will take place in Malta on April 6 and 7

Through the intensive work and the other activities we undertook the Task Force was forged together even more and is a very dedicated, professional and motivated team that any organization can be proud of.

In addition to face-to-face meetings we hold many telephone conferences and on-line meetings within the team on a regular basis to follow up the agreed action points.

### **Planned Task Force Meeting in Malta on April 5, 2018**

As always we will exchange and share experience, but I also plan a critical discussion for our next steps along these lines, since we are not entirely sure where we stand and what is the best way to proceed:

- **Is the Task Force adding value to BPW?**
- **Is BPW adding value to the Task Force?**
- **Is there a place for Task Forces in the BPW structure?**
- **Do we need clearer guidelines for future projects (e.g. following through commitments and communication rules)**

The result of these discussions can be shared in the next report.

### **Talks, presentations, translations and publishing**

- All Task Force members take every opportunity to introduce our aim and programs on club level in their respective countries. The audiences vary between 12 and 30.

### **Closing remarks**

We appreciate that some funding was made available in 2017 to the Task Force by BPW Europe for our meetings to cover some of the costs for material and rooms.

Generally we struggle with visibility and recognition within the organization on the international level as well as in the individual European countries. We try to remedy this with a new webpage and increased activities. The link to the webpage: <http://bpw-lll.weebly.com/>

We would also appreciate increased cooperation with other active Task Forces to learn from the experience. The attempt to cooperate with the Task Force "Mentoring" was unfortunately not successful.

As regards the team works within the Task Force I must emphasize that it is a most fruitful cooperation and possibility to share and learn from each other on very many levels. A perfect example of what women can do together.

Conny R Montague, Chair Task Force Leadership and Lifelong Learning February 2018