

Newsletter #8 - December 2011

Welcome to Winnet8

Winnet 8 has reached The Finish Line!

Only a few days are left of 2011 and of the project period for Winnet 8. A lot of activities have been on the agenda, during the past two years, in order to meet the goals of the project. As project leader and on behalf of the Lead Partner I'm happy to say that we have reached the project goals! But this is not the end but the beginning of the important work with the implementation of all the action plans and policies. During these past two years, experiences and good practices have been exchanged and transferred between the 9 participating regions and they have influenced the completed Regional Action Plans. The partners in Winnet 8 have collected more than 60 Good Practices and 40 of them have been published and are available on the web-site <http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?sid=5751>

November 10th a seminar was held in Brussels to present our collective Policy Recommendations for the next Structural Funds Period. You can read more about in this newsletter.

At last I would like to thank all participating partners, MAG-members and other stakeholders for your engagement and contribution to the project's success.

Regards

Carin Nises
International Coordinator of Winnet 8



Carin Nises is the International Coordinator of Winnet 8 and chairwoman of the Steering Group. She represents the Lead Partner, The Municipality of Älvdalen.



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

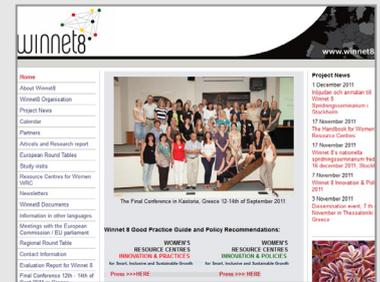
The overall objective with the project Winnet8 is to contribute to regional growth by improving women's participation in the labour market focusing on:

- 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.

Web site www.winnet8.eu

Our website will active until the June 30th 2012 and after that it will be hosted by Winnet Europe, www.winneteurope.org



Dissemination Seminar in Brussels

On the 10th of November 2011 about 20 participants met in Brussels. Among the participants were representatives from the European Commission, Inter reg IVC, Regional Operational Partnership and project partners.

Colin Wolfe, DG Regio talked about “Gender Issues & Cooperation- perspectives to 2020”. Presentations of the Winnet 8 partners final proposal for the policy recommendations were made by Patrizia Daneluzzo, Italy, Popi Sourmaidou and Britt-Marie S Torstensson, Sweden.



Policy Recommendations

The publication “Innovation & Policies” can be downloaded from the web-site.

<http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?sid=5751>



Transforming regional gender relations with WINNET8 – space-sensitive dialogues and interactive learning

WINNET8 has a given position within the work on interregional cooperation across Europe, focussing innovation and the knowledge economy. It is a capitalisation project aiming at sharing best practices achieved in different regions, and can be understood within the theoretical framework of learning regions.

Three arenas of certain importance for the learning process have been Multi Actor(MAG)-groups, study visits and transnational assemblies. At this stage it could be worth pointing out the continued importance of the MAG-groups after the ending of the project. The participants should care for the gender perspective to be considered in the work with regional development, and this may be possible even though some actors will change position or work place. The mobility of individuals implies mobility of ideas, in this case leading to the spread of gender perspective in regional growth.

The study visits have allowed a concrete and embodied experience of what the project is about in each region. Learning about others also involves learning about oneself. The reporting from the study visits exemplify both how learning was achieved but also difficulties in relating to the own reality and to learn from others' experiences. An increased focus on dialogue and self-reflection may be needed in such activities.



Susanne Stenbacka has worked with the on-going evaluation of Winnet8. She works as a researcher and senior lecturer at the Department of Social and Economic Geography at the University of Uppsala.

The transnational assemblies, offering steering group and partnerships meetings, workshops and presentations have involved several possibilities for discussing regional differences and to learn from each other. These meetings have showed how local expressions of hierarchical orders and hierarchies within the organizations affect the sharing of information and mandate to make decisions.

Holding on to the perspective that issues concerning women's' roles in local and regional development, and engagement in the labour market, should be addressed from a contextual point of view is important in offering adequate prerequisites for transformation and regional growth. The role of WRCs in this process may be formulated in terms of learning through innovation; such an approach will recognize all participants as senders and receivers of information. The ability to learn is crucial for regional positive development, and more important; the ability to apply learning through innovation. At the same time as WRC is a concept that can be learned, it is also active in the learning process and undergoing change itself.

Besides the explicit work and goals within this project, WINNET8 addresses the complexity that characterizes the transformation of knowledge among actors who are located in different cultural, political and economic settings. Project participants, representing and thus embodying different regions and countries, may share theoretical concepts and visions. The national systems as well as local socio-cultural realities on the other hand, may not "fit" into the same framework. Making the best out of such disconvergence has been a complicated task to deal with for project participants, when entering the local levels.

The project and its diverse arenas play an important role in the learning of regions. The web of relation which is created and maintained in such a project will lead to repercussions hard to view at the moment but important for contemporary work and future transformations.

Do you want to read the full report? Follow the link!

<http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?refid=228>

Next newsletter

This is the last Newsletter from Winnet 8.