

Newsletter #6 - September 2011

Welcome to Winnet8

Winnet 8 in action and planning future actions

Winnet 8 has been very active during the past one and a half years and is still going strong for the final months of the project. One key task of Winnet 8 has been to create Action Plans for each partner region, which now has been accomplished – only the formal signing of the plans needs to be completed.

Making the Action Plans has been a big effort to the regional Multi Action Groups (MAGs) consisting of representatives of key stakeholders for supporting Winnet 8 objectives: improving gender equality in work life in general and especially in innovation, ICT and entrepreneurship with Women's Resource Centres as a potential tool for this. The MAGs together with the project partners have completed their task in flying colours and with serious commitment. Each MAG mapped out the development needs of their region, studied the present situation in the light of research and statistics and found out which Good Practises from other partner regions would meet the development needs and chose those for transfer. All this has been summarised in 8 regional Action Plans and will be implemented over the coming years. The Action Plans have been produced as an integral part of different Winnet 8 processes but in connection to the realities of the partner regions. Therefore the Action Plans are based on the reality and when used will help to solve some identified and analysed real challenges.

In addition to getting the Action Plans signed, Winnet 8 partnership is also preparing for the Final Conference in Greece at the end of September, compiling the Policy Document to be published and introduced at the Final Conference and also publishing the Good Practise Guide – one of the main products of the project.

An interesting Winnet 8 autumn lies ahead. I hope it will be both enjoyable and beneficial to everybody interested.

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. 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 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.

What has happened in the Winnet8 project during the summer of 2011?

In this Newsletter we focus on the analysis of the Action Plans. All participating 9 Regions, in 8 member countries, have created an Action Plan for the next Program period. The work has been carried out by the regional Multi Actors Group (MAG) where the exchange and sharing of good practices, the Study Visits, and the Work Shops have contributed as input to the process.

Action Plans – summary and analysis on the Winnet 8 website

As the Action Plans are meant to be put in action in the partner regions they are also written in the national languages with only summaries in English. Still, for getting the general idea of their contents, themes, challenges identified and solutions found, it is possible to read the summary analyses of researcher Malin Lindberg from Luleå University of Technology, Sweden.

For compiling each Action Plan it was suggested that the partners use the template provided by the European Commission. In her Article Malin Lindberg follows the 8 parts of the template and points out the key issues raised in different Action Plans.

In the very beginning she points out that the Visions of the Action Plans were not always very clear, but “The visions articulated in the action plans concern three main themes: regional growth policies, resource distribution and women’s participation/contribution. These three themes are connected to two different outcomes: economic and social.”

About the main objectives articulated in the action plans she says that they “concern three main themes: changing policies, achieving gender equality and increasing women’s participation/contribution. These three themes are linked to a number of areas, such as regional growth policies on the regional and European level, decision making, labour market, entrepreneurship, innovation.”

The accounts of the present situation in the action plans reveal according to Malin Lindberg: “three main themes: labour market, entrepreneurship and innovation/ICT. In addition, four smaller themes appear in a few action plans: stereotypes, education, health and violence. Within the theme of labour market, three aspects are focused in the action plans: women’s employment rates, gender segregation and part-time employment. Within the theme of entrepreneurship, three aspects can be identified: importance of entrepreneurship for women, levels of entrepreneurship among women and men, as well as initiatives to promote women’s entrepreneurship. Within the theme of innovation and ICT, two aspects are discernable: women’s contribution to innovation as well as the importance of ICT for women and society. The account of the present situation also includes four incentives for integrating gender in regional growth policies: economic growth, resources, policy goals and power/democracy.”

In the summary analyses it is concluded that: “the challenges perceived in the action plans concern three main themes: structures, awareness and gender specific needs. Structures imply both policy institutions/proceedings and coordination/cooperation between different actors. Awareness concerns gender issues and their importance in regional growth policies as well as the power distribution in such policies. Gender specific needs includes primarily support to women but in some cases also support to men.”

Again three themes are identified from the detailed objectives of the action plans: “changing policies, increasing women’s participation and existence of WRCs. The two first-mentioned themes are the same as the general objectives of the action plans. The theme of changing policies includes: policy programs and strategies, achieving gender equality, highlighting/integrating women’s entrepreneurship as well as coordination of measures and actors. The theme of increasing women’s participation concerns the areas: regional policies, entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, decision making and labour market.”

And finally the steps/tasks suggested in the action plans also regard three types of measures: “measures for gender aware policies, measures for increasing women’s participation and measures for establishing or securing WRCs. The measures for gender aware policies concern three aspects: content of policy programs and strategies, proceedings when developing and implementing policies, and targeting politicians, civil servants and other public employees.”

Link to the article: <http://www.winnet8.eu/getfile.ashx?cid=275952&cc=3&refid=32>



Series of Publications of Winnet 8 now available

Winnet 8 researcher group has produced in total 15 articles relating to Winnet 8 themes. They are all available on the project website. Themes of the articles include e.g. analyses and descriptions of the Womens' Resource Centres, role of education in creating equality, women's situation in Africa, comparisons of women in ICT in different European countries, women in labour market, gender in regional development and development policies etc.

Link to the articles:

<http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?refid=208>



Final Conference 12.-14. September 2011 in Kastoria, Greece

Everybody interested is welcomed to participate to the final conference of Winnet 8 in the theme:

"Women Resource Centres Promoting Innovation in Gender Equality across Europe, tackling the gender segregation on the labour market, influencing policy and actions, promoting good practices"

The conference will provide introduction lectures on gender perspective on regional policies, regional development and gender budgeting, present results of Winnet 8, introduce the Action Plans and present Winnet 8 Final EU Policy Recommendations for EU Cohesion and EU 2020 strategy followed by thematic sessions in entrepreneurship, research and innovation in Women's Resource Centres and taking a deeper look into the Winnet 8 policy recommendations and how WRCs will promote them.

<http://www.winnet8.eu/web/page.aspx?refid=85&newsid=116856&page=1>

Final Conference is also in facebook; look for: "Invitation to the Final Conference of Winnet 8 project".

Next newsletter

Next Newsletter from Winnet8 will be published in October 2011.

Agenda winter of 2011

- Final Conference in Greece
- Dissemination seminar in Falun, Sweden
- Dissemination seminar in Brussels