

Invitation to the Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the International Women Forum organized in partnership with WINNET

Women Entrepreneurs in Innovating Economy

***Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 09:30- 17:00
Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland
Al. Niepodległości 162, Conference Hall 7***

www.mfk.org.pl

Women's entrepreneurship is usually associated with individual success of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) rather than with the process of building innovative economy. The experience of many countries indicates, however, that policies supporting women entrepreneurs have positive impact on innovation and competitiveness of the whole economy. Such policies require a broader perspective taking into account the equality of opportunities and strengthening women's role in the economy. The conference is organized under the auspices of Mr. Janusz Piechociński, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and prof. Danuta Huebner, Chair, Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament and in partnership with WINNET (Sweden) and partners of the project *Baltic Sea Region Platform for Gender and Economic Growth*.

9.00 - 9.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.00 Welcome by prof. Tomasz Szapiro, Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics (TBC), Dr. Ewa Rumińska-Zimny, President of the International Women's Forum and Ms. Britt-Marie S. Torstensson, Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe

Address of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Mr. Janusz Piechociński **(TBC)**

10.00 - 11:15 **Session 1 – Women, Innovation and new Europe**

Debate on the links between the equality of opportunities, innovation and competitiveness in the context of Europe 2020, current crisis and views on a new Europe

Inger Danilda, Chairwomen Quadruple Group AB; dr. Lidia Adamska, economist, former member of the Board, Polish Stock Exchange; prof. Halina Brdulak, Warsaw School of Economics and by video Prof. Danuta Huebner, Chair Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament

11.15 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 12.15 **Session II – SMEs, Creativity and Exports**

Presentation of research on women's entrepreneurship, practical experience of female companies and results of national programmes supporting export-oriented and innovative female companies (Australia, Baltic countries)

Dr. Ewa Lisowska, Warsaw School of Economics; Elwira Gross- Golacka, Director General, Ministry of Economy; representative of Going Abroad/Winnet programme; representative of export oriented SMEs and by video Cynthia Balogh (Women in Global Business, programme of the Government of Australia)

12.15 – 13.30 Session III – Support for Women’s Entrepreneurship: Policies and Good Practices

How to ensure equal opportunities in business? Good practices from Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland

Dr Anna Kurowska, Warsaw University; Britt-Marie S. Torstensson, Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe; Dr Marta Hozer- Kocmiel, Szczecin University and member of Winnet Europe; Iwona Golonko/Anna Mastoń Academy of Independent Women, good practices from representatives of Winnet network

13.30 - 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 15.45 Session IV - EU Regional Policy and Women’s Entrepreneurship: a Perspective of a New Budget 2014-2020

Does EU regional policy support women entrepreneurs? How to use structural funds for this purpose? Discussion based on the experience of the Baltic Sea Region and the Balkan countries and preparations for spending structural funds in Poland during 2014-2020

Dr. Ewa Rumińska- Zimny, President of the International Women’s Forum, Iwona Wierzbicka, representatives of Winnet network and the Balkan network (GTF/RCC)

15.45- 16.00 *Coffee Break*

16.00 – 17.00 International Women’s Forum Round Table: Role of Associations and NGOs

Discussion on the role of women business associations and other non-governmental organization in the context of the 20-year of experience of the International Women’s Forum at the Warsaw School of Economics; exchange of experience with other associations from Poland and abroad (Winnet).

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Registration forms should be sent until 20 September 2013 to mfk@mfk.org.pl; the number of places is limited and the acceptance is based on the registration date. Contact phones: **601 325 757; 601 350 051.**

Important information about travel and accommodation costs

The project can support travel and accommodation cost for 1-2 representatives from the following BSR states: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden .

The project can support travel and accommodation cost for 1- 2 representative from the following Baltic Sea Region states partners: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Denmark.

Please, send the name and contact details of your representative to Britt-Marie S Torstensson, britt-marie.torstensson@winnetsverige.se, at the latest September 19, 2013.

It is important for the booking of travel and accommodation that will be arranged of Pajala Travel Agency in Sweden.

How to book travel and accommodation?

Pajala Travel Agency will contact all representatives from the Baltic Sea Region Countries, to book for the travel and accommodation to and in Warsaw, Poland. (If possible for 2 representative) The accommodation will be paid for one night in Warsaw, Poland. If someone needs to stay one night more, we have to know and discuss before confirmation.

Baltic Sea Region states from: Denmark, Finland and Germany are welcome to participate on their own expenses for travel and accommodation

How to get to Warsaw, Poland,

The best way to reach Warsaw is to fly to the Chopin Airport/or Modlin Airport and then to take a shuttle bus to the city center. You could also travel to Warsaw by train and/or bus.

How to get other information?

In case of questions, ideas or problems please do not hesitate to contact: Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson, britt-marie.torstensson@winnetsverige.se, or on phone: +46 70 2601277 or Ewa Ruminska Zimny, +48 511 845 375

Registration for the Round Table Conference

Please, do your registration to Ewa Ruminska-Zimny ewa.a.ruminska@gmail.com by latest September 19, 2013