

BPW Europe NOW



Back from Mexico!

Thank you very much to all members from Europe who attended BPW International Congress in Mexico !

Together, we have actively participated in the Business Sessions to draft and design the future of our great International Federation. Europeans BPW members have also been numerous in the plenary panels and workshops, either as moderators, speakers or participants.

It is difficult to give an interesting account of an international Congress, as it is as much about informal conversations, exchange of views, personal discoveries and broadening of viewpoints as about formal debates, presenting papers, voting.



I would thus appreciate that European BPW members who were in Mexico last month, would send me a paragraph or two along themes such as «what I discovered about BPW which makes being a member more interesting now » or « which conversation has given me new point of view on our world » or... »what was the most interesting experience during the Mexico Congress »...

Please send your impressions to coordinator@bpw-europe.org and it would be wonderful to receive a picture of you at the same time, so we can make our European website more lively and visual.

During the Congress a photographer and cameramen were active, we shall also be receiving in the near future some pictures of all of you in action !



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Thank you very much

You have supported my candidature and I have been elected Regional Coordinator BPW Europe. Thank you very much !

I am fully aware of the amount of work to be done to reinforce BPW in all countries of the European region and to increase our input in a changing world.

Luckily enough, **Gabriella Canonica** has done an outstanding job in the past three years, she has worked so hard to put all federations and associated clubs in contact with each others and with BPW International. Thank you so much, Gabriella, for the way you

have travelled around Europe, opened doors by your contacts with other NGOs and European Institutions, proposed ideas for common projects at European level.

Luckily enough, work at European level is teamwork. It also progresses through

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the input of the members of the European Coordinating Committee (ECC). Currently, the ECC includes **Enrichetta Bellini**, BPW Italy, **Annegret Hastedt**, BPW Germany and **Arzu Ozyol**, BPW Ankara, Turkey, who have been elected to support and work with the European Coordinator.

Luckily enough, I can also rely on the passionate engagement of presidents of the European BPW federations and associate clubs. They are already working together for the development of BPW and the promotion of our common goals and values. Yearly Presidents' meetings and online contacts keep us all on our toes.

We will see achievements at European level, if all BPW members are aware that their individual competences and skills are necessary to develop common BPW projects and actions.

So let's work together to

- . support Young BPW members in their endeavours,
- . promote mentoring and IDP programmes,
- . promote the Equal Pay Day at European level (15 April 2009)
- . increase the contacts with other women's organizations to achieve common goals,
- . develop the participation of BPW members to events organized by Council of Europe and UN organisations based in Europe,

- . make BPW known in European countries where no affiliate exists,
- . take an active role in structures shaping public decision-making in our countries
- . develop recruitment of new members
- . make a success of the next European Congress (Munich 4 to 6 September 2009)

So, thank you very much in advance for your involvement at European level and for your support to your new Regional Coordinator !

amelie.leclercq@bpw-europe.org

A new Associate Club in Tomsk



Please meet the new BPW members from Russia who have together decided to start a new Club in **Tomsk**.

The creation of this new associate club was accepted during the international Congress.

Welcome to BPW Europe and we hope to meet you in Munich next september.



The founding president of the Club is **Elvira Lamonova** (to the right) and **Tatania Uvarova** is Vice-President (to the left)



News from BPW Germany

On the 8th of November, BPW Germany held its annual meeting of the board of Directors and a new executive board was elected.

A new president was elected : **Dagmar Bischof**.



Dagmar has always taken responsibility within BPW at local level in the club of Bremen or at national level in

the national board. She was also Finance Officer of BPW Europe from 2001 to 2006.

She has great attention to details, knows the importance of finances to develop projects, gives support to BPW projects in Germany and in Europe. Congratulations for your election, Dagmar !

Meanwhile, Dr. **Bettina Schleicher**, now Past President of BPW Germany, is stepping down from her responsibilities in the board of BPW Germany, but is not standing idle. She has been elected in the managing executive board of the national Women's Council for Germany . This is a very important position and this election reflects both the hard work and skills of Bettina Schleicher and the visibility of BPW Germany nationwide.

<http://www.deutscherfrauenrat.de>

Thank you, Bettina, for your



hard work on behalf of BPW Germany during 4 years and good luck for this new adventure.

New Presidents

We welcome the new President of BPW Budapest, **Hungary, Juliette Moldován**.



Judith shows great engagement by taking on this responsibility, as she has opened a new restaurant in the center of Budapest a few months ago.

Congratulations for your nomination and good luck.

At BPW Bratislava, Slovakia, the new president is **Ludmila Filipková**. She has already visited BPW Zug in Switzerland and aims to work with all BPW members on the European BPW projects. Best wishes for a successful term of office.



The founding president, **Mariana Hrachalova**, who gave a great start to the club, had to step down for personal reasons. Thank you very much Mariana for your engagement for BPW.

The presidents of federations and associate clubs change regularly as one of the goals of BPW is that members take responsibility within BPW and also in society at large. There are no presidents for life. To become president for a few years, at local or national level, is for each of us, a challenge, a responsibility, but it is also a great way to understand better our world,

A new ECC member

Why a European Coordinating Committee ? (this is what "ECC" stands for)

There is a specificity of BPW Europe. In each of the Regions of BPW International, there is a Regional Coordinator. But only in Europe, the Regional Coordinator has some members to... coordinate.

Federations, Clubs, individual members send mails, invitations, requests, have common projects. Furthermore, BPW Europe has to take an active role in the relations with the Council of Europe, the European Institutions and the European Women's lobby. These few examples shows that a Coordinating Committee, working with the Regional Coordinator makes sense.

The members of this committee come from different backgrounds, cultures and professions.

They are elected at each European Congress and one of them is specifically elected as Finance Officer.

In certain circumstances, it is necessary to have elections between European Congresses. In this case, elections take place during a Presidents' Closed Meeting (annual meeting of the Presidents of BPW Europe federations & clubs).

During Mexico Congress, a position in ECC was empty due to my election as Regional Coordinator. A call for candidatures had been made electronically two months before Mexico.

We are now welcoming the arrival in ECC of **Arzu Ozyol**, founding president of BPW Ankara, Turkey.



Arzu is very active in developing BPW in Turkey and brings her organisational and managerial skills to BPW Europe.

CSW - What is this ?

Our new International President, **Liz Benham**, has sent to all presidents of federations and clubs, information on how to attend the next CSW meeting in New York. The 53rd Session will take place from the 2nd to the 13th March 2009.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is one of the commissions organised by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN. As BPW International has consultative status to the ECOSOC, it is one of the INGO (international non governmental organisation), which is allowed to have members attending as

observers. CSW is dedicated to gender equality and advancement of women.

The Commission will be attended by Member States and INGO. This year's theme is "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of AID/HIV".

For more details : <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

Presidents of federations and associate clubs have till the **15th of December** to send to the Executive Board a list of interested members (including all necessary details to enable direct contact for registration).

Last year, around 240 BPW members attended CSW 52nd Session. Attending helps to understand the input of BPW International towards advancement of women.



And... a new Young BPW Europe

It is a time of change in many ways!

At each International Congress, all the Young BPW representatives (international or regional) finish their term.

The International Young BPW Representative is part of the International Executive board and thus she is elected at Congress with all the other members of the Executive Board. By the way, the new Young BPW International is Nadia Munawar from BPW Pakistan.

For the Regional Young BPW Representatives, the procedure is slightly different as they are not elected to a position on a board. Thus in each BPW Region, the Young BPW members are asked to choose candidates amongst their number and propose their candidatures to the Regional

Coordinator Gabriella Canonica, as European Regional Coordinator nominated the Young BPW Europe Representative.

I am delighted to present **Maja Radischweski** who, as her family name does not indicate, is from BPW Switzerland. She is indeed of Polish origin and speak so many languages I cannot list them !

Maja is working with and taking over from **Viktorija Balensiefen** who has worked



hard since 2005 to improve communication. Viktoria has for example redesigned the website of the Young BPW Europe website. <http://www.youngbpw-europe.org/>

Thank you very much, Viktoria, for the time and efforts you devoted to Young BPW Europe.

Maja is currently contacting the Young BPW representatives at national level. If you are a Young BPW and do not have a national representative, do not hesitate to contact her to be on her mailing list.

Her email is : maja.radischweski@youngbpw-europe.org

All Young BPW can participate

The Robin Cosgrove Price in Ethics is for young people under 35 around the world.

It promotes greater awareness among young people of the benefits of ethics in finance.

In the current context, this is really relevant. Many Young BPW have had very good education in finances and work for banks, or in finance

department of companies or public services.

The voice of women needs to be heard in the finance world, so please go to the website : www.robincosgroveprize.org and consider participating in this competition.

It is necessary to submit an expression of interest.

Then deadline for answering

is the **31st March 2009.**

The Robin Cosgrove Price is managed by the Observatoire de la Finance, a non-profit organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Making our history known

We have role models but their memories is sometimes fading away.

It is important for all federations and clubs to keep not only a memory but a history of their founding presidents and prominent members.

We need to write short biographies of them as their life history is full of lessons.

On the website of BPW Europe, we need to present the life and

achievements of BPW women such as

Františka Plamínková, the First Vice President of BPW International who was Senator of Czechoslovakia,

Marcelle Devaux, who was Senator in France, International Vice-President in the 1970s and lobbied for decades for the equal treatment of women in the workplace,

Emilienne Brunfaut, one of the great names of European Trade-Unionism who was also president of BPW Belgium.

I am sure you have your own national examples to continue this list.

Why are we missing on our own history ?

Let's write short biopics to give flesh to the achievements of our federations and clubs.

We want to change society ? For that we need to build upon our history

Future Events at European level

For your agendas:

European Congress "empowerment=diversity of knowledge"

Munich - 4th to 6th Septembre 2009

Equal Pay Day - 15 April 2009

Best Regards from a snowy Brussels



Amélie
Leclercq
Regional Coordinator
BPW Europe

Next newsletter :

The European Women' Lobby

News from Federations and Clubs

Promoting the Equal Pay Day

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European Region of BPW
International

e-mail: coordinator@bpw-europe.org

web:

www.bpw-europe.org

www.bpw-international.org