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Women Entrepreneurship Platform Newsletter



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Dear WEP members and friends,

We are delighted to share our monthly newsletter with you, which aims at informing you about [WEP's activities](#) as well as news surrounding women entrepreneurship in general. After a very busy month of March for gender equality and women entrepreneurship, April has been quiet.

In the European Parliament, the discussions on the new Work and Family Life Directive continued and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality explored possible measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment at workplace, in public spaces and political life in the EU.

Warm regards,

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WEP Chair

EU at a glance



13th Meeting of the Gender Equality Commission

The Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission (GEC) discussed a forthcoming conference to launch the new Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023, and the ongoing work of the Drafting Committee preparing a Committee of Minister's recommendation to prevent and combat sexism. [Read more.](#)

Women in Transport - an EU platform for change

Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc suggested introducing targets or 'voluntary version of quotas' to encourage employers to hire more women. The transport workforce is only 22% female despite women accounting for 46% of all people employed in the overall economy. [Read more...](#)



WEP News

Work and Family Life Balance Directive

Following our meetings with MEPs on the 23rd March, to discuss the European Commission's proposal and the European Parliament's Report on the Reconciliation of Work and Family Life Directive. We have worked on specific amendments to the FEMM Committee's Report that can be found [here](#).

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starters weekend for Women and Social Innovation. The objective of the event was to give young and professional women the skills to become digital entrepreneurs and to support them in driving positive change by realizing in two days feasible digital projects and giving them the opportunity to meet potential interested investors. There were presentations by DLI's Founder and CEO Cheryl Miller, Francesca Alquati, officer of the Turin Chamber of Commerce and Paola Pisano, Turin's Councilor for Innovation. There were also three workshops, one on "how to create a website with wordpress", another on data visualization and one on 'Smartphone App Development for Android'.

WEP Board Member's Film wins Award at New York TV & Film Fest

The first interactive multimedia and transmedia series, "IF I WERE YOU", produced in Spain by production company Atomis Media received the International Award as "Best Digital Drama Series" at the New York Television and Film Festival held at Las Vegas on April 10th. Isabel Raventós, WEP Vice-Chairwoman, was the executive producer of this first interactive thriller series produced for main public channel of Spain, RTVE, in collaboration with her company Atomis Media. "If I Were You" also was finalist of the first Digital CanneSeries Festival that took place on April 11th in France.

Members News

AFAEMME

[Afaemme's](#) President was elected for the EuroMed follow-up Committee at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Maria Helena de Felipe believes there is still a great potential to be unlocked to reinforce and complete mediterranean area working with economic and social committees from the 47 Mediterranean partner countries of the programme.

Digital Leadership Institute

[DLI](#) celebrated its 3 year anniversary on the 9th March! Cheryl Miller, its founder was also awarded the Industry Leadership Award at the Global Mobile Awards. Congratulations!

"Why Europe Matters"

[JA Europe](#) and ERT received the 'Out of the Box Award 2018' for the "[Why Europe Matters](#)" campaign. The award recognizes good practices of collaboration between companies, the civil sector, universities and young people in promotion of the European dream. The "Why Europe Matters" campaign was selected thanks to its combination of the promotion of entrepreneurship, solidarity, inclusiveness and citizen participation.

The Days of Women Entrepreneurship

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entrepreneurs from B&H and the region, as well as women manager, women CEO and women decision makers from all rates, from local communities to the state level and government and non-governmental sector. The event focused on the following themes: women in rural regions, with a special accent on agriculture and tourism, women and their role in the IT sector and the proactive roles of local communities in promoting women entrepreneurship.

Event on the growth of the Slovenian economy

[FAM Društvo Poslovnih Žensk](#) – Association of Female Managers (Slovenia) organised a multigenerational center - Unique in Europe, where the theme of the day was: how will we achieve the desired objectives in 2018 and what is at stake in the growth of the Slovenian economy?

MEP Champion of the month

MEP Barbara Matera

In recent years, there has been a monumental push for women to join their male counterparts and step out into the corporate world to start their own businesses. This is a step towards equality in theory, but most women are still barred from success because they are still expected to become the primary caretaker. Women are an integral part of the workforce, but in order to enable them to succeed, there needs to be policies that try to alleviate the responsibilities that come with being a caretaker.



In addition to a change in policies, there also needs to be a shift in perception. Women should not be the only ones expected to take the brunt of the work when it comes to caretaking. Men should be incentivised to take up more household duties and paternal responsibilities. In order to help align the work life balance, things like lengthened or mandatory paternity leave needs to be introduced. In addition, flexible working arrangements should be encouraged to help the staff compensate with the duties of being a caretaker and an employee. Discrimination against pregnant women, parents, and workers coming back from leave should be discouraged. Achieving these changes is expected to benefit the companies and society as a whole. This would allow women to stay in the work force and gain more experience so that she will be able to improve her family's socio-economic standing. Companies will also benefit from a wider talent pool to hire from. This will also help alleviate the challenges of an aging demographic and improve the Member State's overall financial stability. We should strive to find feasible solutions, like working from home, that

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