



## Main results from Winnet8, Interreg IVC Capitalisation project Priority area: Employment, human capital and education

### Overall aim of Winnet8

The projects overall aims were to contribute to regional growth by counteracting horizontal gender segregation in the labour market and improve women's participation in innovation, ICT/technology and entrepreneurship. Furthermore to impact the Regional Operational Programmes for the Structural Funds, 2014-2020. Winnet8 targeted good practices for women in innovation, ICT/technology and entrepreneurship as well as for integrating gender specific actions into mainstream provision.

Winnet 8 involved nine regions in eight Member States representing the North, East, West and South of Europe. The project took as a point of departure Quadruple Helix cooperation and involved representatives from managing authorities for the Structural Funds, local and regional policy makers (public sector) Women Resource Centres (civil society), universities and research institutions (academy) and business.

### Winnet8 objectives

- Increase women labour market participation, especially in male dominated areas
- Transfer good practice across Winnet8 regions and countries
- Mainstream good practices into EU funding programmes
- Disseminate models designed by Women's Resource Centre across member states

### Challenges addressed by Winnet8

- Women's low employment rates
- Horizontally segregated labour markets
- Lack of women in innovation, ICT/technology and entrepreneurship

### Overall aim of Women Resource Centres (WRCs)

- Empower women and increase the number of women participating in economic life on national, regional and local levels.
- Create new permanent jobs by reinforcing women's entrepreneurship
- Increase women's influence in the labour market and society
- Support more equal distribution of economic resources between women and men for gender equal growth

## WRC methods

Empower women who seek support they are not “taken care of” but rather get guidance towards self-help

Provide services for women such as training, education, mentoring, guidance, enterprise support, project development and finance

Mediate contacts with women's networks and other actors such as enterprise agencies, authorities and media

Networking on different levels: local, regional, national and international

Promote a dual approach combining gender mainstreaming and gender specific actions for equal development and growth

## Winnet 8 final results

Results from Winnet 8 results can be downloaded from [www.winnet8.eu](http://www.winnet8.eu) as well as a the Handbook How to run a WRC Successfully

### 1. 9 Regional Action Plans

Experience and knowledge was collected through interregional trainings, study visits and workshops. Regional Actions Plans were elaborated in the involved member states and these plans have been signed by Winnet 8 partner's to secure implementation. Results served as an input for EU 2020 and the Cohesion policy 2014-2020 both in the involved regions and in EU as a whole.

### 2. Good Practice Handbook

Women Resource Centres, Innovation & Practices for Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth is a handbook with over 40 selected good practices from member states.

### 3. Winnet 8x8

Women Resource Centres, Innovation & Policies, for Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth is a policy report with recommendations for EU 2020 and the Cohesion Policy 2014–2020. Winnet8 x 8 priorities (see below 1-8) refers to the regulations for the Structural Funds.

1. Gender equality in the labour market to achieve the 75% employment rate target for women by 2020
2. Gender budgeting to analyse the impact of the policy and assess the extent to which resources are allocated in gender-equal or unequal ways
3. Data and indicators broken down by sex
4. Gender perspective in the Operational Programmes for the European Structural Funds;
5. A dual approach combining gender mainstreaming with specific funding for gender specific actions
6. Access to gender equality expertise in partnerships and decision making bodies for the European Structural Funds
7. A gender equality flagship and interregional platform for cooperation are suggested, encompassing the collection of gender segregated statistics
8. Comparative interregional analysis, research, advanced training and an exchange of practices.

## Further

The partnership in Winnet 8 recommends the following actions to increase growth and competitiveness on gender equal terms in the EU.

1. Allocate long term basic funding for WRCs, Women Resource Centres, in member states and support knowledge sharing and transfer within EU
2. Allocate resources and budget for gender specific actions to secure women's participation in the labour market and innovation, ICT/technology and entrepreneurship

3. Establish an European Platform of actors for gender equality in the Cohesion Policy and EU 2020 to ensure gendered perspectives in all decisions within ESF, ERDF and Interregional programmes across member states
4. Establish result indicators for gender equality and measures to be followed up

## Winnet Centre of Excellence (WCE)

A Winnet Centre of Excellence (WCXE) was established in 2011 in Sweden and will be further developed as a test bed within the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy. The Centre will

- document, analyse, disseminate and mainstream the experiences from Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) in Europe since the mid-90s
- gather a network of interactive researchers and representatives from civil society as well as other spheres
- identify relevant research issues in light of the development within EU with specific focus on the Baltic Sea Region
- design joint applications for R&D project and research with relevance for practice and policy
- elaborate strategies to influence policy and implementation of good practices

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## Partners

### Sweden

The Municipality of Älvdalen (Lead Partner) Management and Coordination

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The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Winnet Sweden, NRC, The Swedish National Federation of Women Resource Centres

Winnet Gävleborg, Saga, The Regional Resource Centre for Women, Gävleborg

The Regional Development Council of Gävleborg

The Regional Cooperation Council of Dalarna

### Poland

Gryfice District • The Municipality of Lebork • University of Szczecin

### Finland

The Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia • The University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute

### Italy

The Province of Venice

### UK

The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

### Portugal

The University of Evora

The Regional Coordination and Development Committee of Alentejo

### Bulgaria

The Municipality of Plovdiv

### Greece

The Region of West Macedonia • Ergani Centre

## Project duration 2010-01-01–2011-12-31

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For further information [www.winnet8.eu](http://www.winnet8.eu)