

Welcome letter

Dear European Presidents,

As Secretary of the European Coordinating Committee (ECC), on behalf of Karin Raguin Regional Coordinator BPW Europe, I would like to turn to you, as Presidents of BPW Europe which is the largest of the 5 regions of BPW International.

We would like to give you additional information to support you in your office as President of your Federation or Affiliated Club.

Table of contents:

1 BPW History in brief	1
2 Our Aim, our Ambition	1
3 Key international campaigns	2
4 Our most important events	2
5 BPW Young	3
6 Digital BPW.....	3
7 Material to support you	3
8 Promote your country	4
9 Contact for Questions.....	4

1 BPW International History in brief

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) was founded by Dr. Lena Madessin Phillips in 1930 in Geneva.

During the last 8 decades BPW International has become one of the most influential international NGOs of business and professional women with affiliates in 96 Countries in five continents.

BPW has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and participatory status with the Council of Europe. Its members include influential women leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, executives, professionals and young career women through all industries.

2 BPW Europe : our ambition

To make an impact for Women in the workplace, by advocating towards governments and corporations, and by revealing Women’s potential.

2015-2017 motto : **“Leaders of the Future – Be BPW now”**

Welcome letter

3 Key international campaigns

Equal Pay Day (EPD)

It was initiated by BPW Business & Professional Women! Women's accounts are in the red - In the European Union, the average Gender Pay Gap is 16 % (comparison between hourly salaries). Women above 65 are also the population most at risk of falling in poverty - as they earned less, they have also lower pensions. The federations and associate clubs of Europe have been running this campaign for the past years and will continue to do so in the coming years. We have created a special website for Equal Pay Day: www.equalpayday.org to make our activities visible. If you are active for Equal Pay Day please send us the date of your Equal Pay Day, a short description about your activities and if possible some pictures, so that we can make visible your activities, too.

Women on Board

BPW Europe is advocating to increase the number of women in top-position, and in particular in corporate boards. "Women on Boards" BPW resolution was voted in Jeju, encouraging us to raise awareness of BPW federations regarding this topic and trained members who can be recommended for leadership roles, for instance as potential board members.

4 Our most important events

BPW Regional Leadership Summit & Presidents Meeting in Brussels

Every year in May in Brussels is held a General Assembly of Presidents: it is an important event where you should participate, if possible. Here the decisions for BPW Europe are made and the practical learning and exchange of best practices with other countries is very important. During this event each President presents the activities of her federation or club. Current issues regarding the women are discussed and future activities are planned.

Before the Presidents meeting there is a Networking Forum that is open for all members. At this day we are visiting one of the European institutions and learn and discuss what is happening at EU level. This is an important part to learn to lobby at European level.

The European Conference

The European Conference is held every three years and is attended by all the European Federations and Affiliated Clubs. The last unforgettable Conference was held in Sorrento, Italy. The next will be held in Zurich, Switzerland, exceptionally in 2016 and its motto is: **Be inspired. Be powerful. Be BPW.** The European Conference is a wonderful occasion to meet women from all over Europe and to experience the crosscultural spirit of BPW. We will keep you informed about programme, registration and everything you need to know about Zurich16. **Save the date: 30 September – 2 October, 2016.**

Different Regional Networks and Forums in Europe

There are different regional networks among several countries that exist since several years to collaborate and find synergies within these countries to support women's issues.

Welcome letter

The **Danubenet** for all countries along the river Danube organizes an annual Danubenet Forum to support women entrepreneurs to exchange work experience and make business contacts.

The **DACH meeting** is a bi-annual event among the German speaking countries Germany (D), Austria (A) and Switzerland (CH) and is moving among these countries.

The **Hansenet** for all countries that belonged to the Hanse.

The **Mediterranean Women Network** which started in 2012 in Sorrento at the European Conference .

The **South East European Network** which started in 2011 and is aiming to support the countries in South Eastern Europe.

All BPW members are invited and welcomed to the events of these networks and we are publishing the events on the European Website.

5 BPW Young

BPW also includes a Young BPW subgroup which is a core component for the future of the Federation; you can find all information regarding Young BPW in the separate box, on the left side of the website. www.bpw-europe.org. We have established the institution of Young BPW Symposium which takes place every year in a different European country. You are all welcome to join us!

Maria Socratous, our Young BPW Europe Representative, is publishing regularly actual information about the activities of Young BPW both on the website and on our FaceBook page (BPW Europe). We are very glad that Maria is so active and already has visited different Federations to promote the idea of Young BPW. You can invite her to your country to promote young BPW. Please consider when you invite her that her budget is limited and if possible support her for her travelling expenses or accommodation.

6 Digital BPW

You can find all the news regarding the BPW International on the website www.bpw-international.org and regarding BPW Europe on the website www.bpw-europe.org. Please sign up for the international eNews to receive the monthly news from BPW International.

7 Material to support you

We have created standard presentations on different topics that you can translate, adapt to your country and use for presenting BPW to your members or others:

- BPW Europe
- Equal Pay Day Europe

Further topics are in preparation.

You can download these presentations from slideshare:

<http://www.slideshare.net> by searching for BPW Europe or the topic;;

<http://www.slideshare.net/search/slideshow?searchfrom=header&q=BPW+Europe>

Welcome letter

8 Promote your country

National Events on the European Website (your action needed)

We offer you to promote your national events on the European website, like conferences, jubilees or other larger regional events (when more than 3 clubs or countries are involved). Please send us information about your national events with date, location, topic and a link to your website, so that I can publish your events at: <http://bpw-europe.org/around-europe/events>

Newsletters (your action needed)

If you have national newsletters or other digital publications, please forward them to us in pdf - format. We will put them on the Newsletters page: <http://bpw-europe.org/around-europe/newsletters>

Your News For the BPW International eNews

You find below the the most important points:

- If you have any interesting events, activities or media news from your country that might be interesting for the eNews of BPW International, please send them to the presidents.office@bpw-international.org to
- If you would like to propose one of your members for the **women of the week** please contact the Presidents Office presidents.office@bpw-international.org to receive the respective forms.
- 2015-2017 BPW International motto : **“Making the difference through leadership & actions”**

9 Contact for Questions

We are looking forward to hear and to read from you about the activities in your country and to put this on our European website to make BPW Europe more visible.

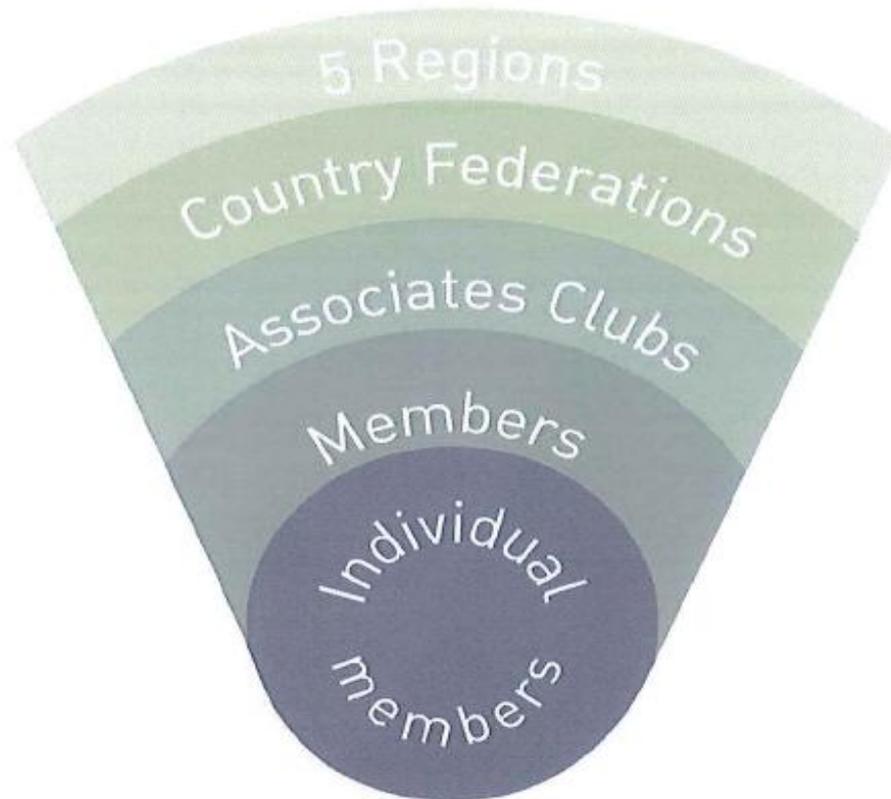
If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

We are sure that you will sow ideas that will help the growth and success of women in the social, economical, political and cultural context for the defense of their rights, for the final conquest of equality and dignity.

Always work with serenity and pride in belonging, with the belief that women have that particular intelligence of the heart which allows us to make a real difference and be true messengers of peace.

Be active and involved members because every member can certainly give something special to make our Association great!

Best regards
Pinella Bombaci
ECC Executive Secretary
mail: giuseppa.bombaci@bpw-europe.org



Benefits of serving with BPW:

- **Community Activism**
- **Individual Development**
- **Mentoring**
- **Motivating Others**
- **Feel good by doing good**
- **Learn new skills**
- **Work-Life Balance**
- **Give back to the community**
- **Intellectual Engagement**

For more informations on BPW, please visit:
www.bpw-international.org

