



Young BPW Europe in a nutshell –3/2011

Dear Young BPW Europe,

Season's Greetings – Best Wishes

Brief

- **Promotion of Young BPW work and activities in Europe**
 - ✚ **Participating to local, national and European meetings and events**

BPW Germany - BPW Bonn

From 4th to 6th November 2011 **BPW Bonn** has hosted the **annual BPW Germany General Assembly**. More than 150 BPW women from all over Germany participated in the event. It was a real honour to be invited to the event. It was also a special occasion for BPW Bonn to celebrate its 60th birthday with more than 60 members in the club, with a gala and candle lights ceremony, on Saturday 5th November in the evening.

On 4th November afternoon a review of the National and International working groups was organized, later on, a reception in the Old Town Hall of Bonn hosted by the Mayor of Bonn; and in the evening a networking dinner at the brewery Bönnsch; followed by a Young BPW Girls Night Out at Café Bistro Cartoon, time to informally get to know together.



On 5th Nov. , the annual BPW General Assembly took place in the hotel DERAG Chancellor. At the beginning of the Assembly, Delegates applauded Ms. Ilse Wissemann, Past President of BPW Germany, for having received the cross of merit from the German Government for her continuous actions on women cause. Among other actions agreed and votes, delegates agreed to the Key's to achievement action, motion presented by Britta Kueper, within BPW Germany with a specific name as well as to create a specific working group on the issue. It has been mentioned to promote WEPs within BPW Germany. In parallel of the Assembly, the opportunity for business women & companies was offered to present their savoir-faire and sell their items at a trade exhibition.

In the evening, the gala was the opportunity to meet and talk with Delegates and share experiences on BPW issues at National, European and International level. BPW Bonn President, Viktoria Balensiefen mastered the ceremony and testified her thanks to BPW Germany President, Henrike von Platen, and to her all team for the organisation of the event. During the candle light ceremony, I was invited and honoured to light the candle of the future.

On Sunday 6th November, a meeting was organised by the Young BPW German Representative, Ines Martin, to exchange with Young BPW German Members and the Young BPW European Representative

on their expectations and perspectives at personal, professional and BPW level as well as introducing BPW initiatives at European and International level. A very interesting exchange was due to active and interesting Young women. Initiatives were underlined such as the benefits of mentoring for Young and its structure in Germany, the possibility for Young to be at decisional positions in clubs and at National level, the importance of communication between members, and specific actions such as inviting members to know Woman Entrepreneurs, actions and management over a formal or informal event like at Stuttgart. *The event was a real success, a big thanks again to the organisers and hosts.*

BPW La Spezia, Italy

On Saturday 26th november, in the "Castelo di St Giorgio", in La Spezia, Italy, **BPW La Spezia** handed over awards to remarkable Italian women for their work in civil society, and a special award dedicated to Young BPW in Europe to Maria Letizia Piera Pumo.

Maria Letizia is an astrofisician of 32 years old, member of the association BPW/Fidapa Misterbianco in Sicily, Italy since 2005. She is one of the rare women in Europe and the only one in Italy working on applied theory in astrophysics on "modelling" the supernova.

Among a complete booked room of participants, the Young BPW Representatives from International - Anastasia Victoria Safarian, Italy -Anna Giulia Manno, and Europe - Miette Dechelle supporting the event, were present.

The Jury was composed of Alessandra Del Monte, Mirella Barbagli, Giuseppina Pravettoni and Enrica Bellini, BPW Europe Finance Officer.



The BPW La Spezia Cup event was very successful and allowed one more time to promote women of exception at National, European and International level.



Young BPW Cup La Spezia, a story : The Young BPW Cup is organised by BPW La Spezia, Italy to distinguish Young BPW from Europe for their leadership and professionalism. It is given at a public ceremony with the presence of authorities, artists and a large public to recognize the merit of the winners. Since 2005 BPW club of La Spezia in Italy has been organising an award for Italian Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs. The award was reiterated in 2006. Following the success of the events, it was agreed at the XII European Congress of Stockholm to open the award in 2007 to BPW Young Europe. The award dedicated to Young BPW Europe started in 2007. More information on [Young BPW Europe pages](#).

Latest events

Young BPW Cyprus

Young BPW Cyprus has organised a Charity Event on December 15th and a seminar baring the title "Improve Your Self-Image" on Saturday 22nd October 2011 at Golden Bay Hotel in Larnaka.

The seminar was very successful and included:

- Release Negative Energy with Carol Page
- Presentation "Improving Your Personal Branding and Communication" with Sophie Mouskou
- Presentation "Business Writing Tips" with Christina Alexandrou
- Yoga by the Sea with Nana from Life Centre



BPW Estonia

BPW Estonia celebrated its **19th anniversary** in Tallinn City Hall, on November 11, 2011. It has been the tradition from the beginning that on that day BPW Estonia also announces the Woman of the Year and this year the title was given to Mrs Tea Varrak, previous Chancellor of the Ministry of Finance who was in charge of the adoption of the Euro for Estonia this year. For the first time, a new award category for active and outstanding young woman was created, calling for the **Young Woman Entrepreneur** of the Year. The nominees were collected via website of BPW Estonia and introduced by the clubs, the final decision was taken by the members of Young BPW Estonia.

The Young Woman Entrepreneur of the Year is Mrs Eva Maria Õunapuu, the founder and manager of the JOIK candles and spa (www.joik.ee). Eva is 34 years previously lawyer, she set up organic cosmetics company JOIK four years ago, turning her candle-making hobby into a successful business. JOIK now employs four people and has moved to bigger premises. It has an annual turnover of 250,000 euros and is starting to export to neighbouring Baltic countries. The Young BPW Estonia will visit in Spring 2012 and invite the winner to BPW events and activities. [Pictures of the ceremony](#) & [One article on Eva Maria Õunapuu](#) .



6th BPW Danubenet Forum in Belgrade, Serbia

The 6th BPW Danube Net Forum took place in the capital of Serbia, Belgrade in November 11th-13th, 2011. Women from 5 of the Danube Net countries participated in this event: Austria, Croatia, Germany, Romania and Serbia. Together with guests from Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia. At the opening ceremony there were speakers from the European Economic and Social Committee, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, the Chamber of Commerce and BPW. The European Coordinator, Sabine Schmelzer participated in the Forum. Workshops were held in the afternoon on entrepreneurship, networking and other topics of interest. The next Danube Net Forum will take place in 2012 in Vienna. *More information on [BPW International News](#).*

Young BPW International

BPW Sofia, Bulgaria



Second International Forum on Women Entrepreneurship was organized jointly by the Bulgarian Association of Women Entrepreneurs (BAWE), **BPW Sofia**, Bulgaria and the Executive Agency for Promotion of Small and

Medium-sized Enterprises. The event took place at Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan on December 2nd and 3rd of 2011 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The two-day forum aimed to encourage women business leadership and presence at managerial level, while openly addressing women entrepreneurship status. The event was well attended. The conclusion of the discussions will be soon on [Bulgarian Association of Women Entrepreneurs website](#). Anastasia Victoria Safarian, Young BPW International Representative was present at the event, more information on her [blog](#) .

New Regional Young BPW Representatives in Latin and North America

We welcome the nomination of the Young BPW Representatives for Latin America and Spanish Speaking Countries, Sofia Torroba, Argentina



North American and Non- Spanish Speaking Countries, Courtney Amber Bynoe, USA

To know more about Sofia Torroba and Courtney Amber Bynoe, please visit <http://youngbpwinternational.wordpress.com/young-bpw-committee/>

The Young Standing International Committee kicked off, and its first mission is to promote at regional level the WEPs, Women Empowerment Principles. "What is the WEPs" in the Tools box below.

International Young BPW Congress 2012 in Sorrento

The next BPW Europe Congress and Young BPW International Congress will take place at the same time in Sorrento, Italy, on 28th – 30th September 2012 at Hilton Sorrento Palace. The theme of the BPW Young Congress will be "**Empowering Young to be Future Leaders**".

Tools to support your lobbying actions

BPW members together develop lobbying actions and need to have figures and facts readily available to support their actions. I will try to provide you with information about newly published data which could support you when developing collective campaigns in Europe.

BPW International Info:

BPW International has a great opportunity for 2 young members to be closely working with United Nations! As you are aware, the International Federation for Business and Professional Women (BPW International for short) and EPW as a part of that organization, is accredited to the United Nations and provides access to that body's deliberations with a ground pass for designated representatives to attend meetings and advocate for our interests with UN member states missions. The Department of Public Information (DPI) is looking for two young members from BPW International to volunteer for this position. [Please review the Young BPW UN Representative description and requirements.](#) For more information and if you are interested to apply, please contact Young EPW – New York Representative Kathryn Ciccolini (info.yepwny@gmail.com) and Young BPW International Representative Anastasia Victoria Safarian (anastasia.safarian@bpw-international.org).

Tools:

WEPS: Launched on International Women's Day, the Women's Empowerment Principles suggests seven steps for companies to take to empower women in the workplace and the market place. They were launched by the United Nations Development Fund For Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Global Compact on March 8th, 2010 based on a multi-stakeholder consultative process. The Women's Empowerment Principles are subtitled **Equality Means Business** because the full participation of women benefits business and by signing the Statement of Support, CEOs will demonstrate leadership on gender equality and women's empowerment and will encourage fellow business leaders to do the same. [Equality Means Business \(Key Documents and Guidance document\).](#)

Keys2Achievements: The Keys to Achievement (K2A) is a personal and professional development program designed to challenge members of BPW to work through a structured series of tasks to develop key business and career skills as well as enhance your knowledge and commitment to BPW. Alicia Curtis, Western Australia BPW Development Officer, developed the program for use by BPW Australia. *For more information contact miette.dechelle@bpw-europe.org.*

European info:

Brussels, 18 November 2011, the **European Women Lobby launched** of its latest publication: ['Her Future... What's it worth to you?](#)

GEMMA Call for Applicants: Scholarships available for European and Third Country students and scholars (deadline: 31 December 2011)

Programme description: GEMMA: Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies is a two-year postgraduate interdisciplinary study program that provides high quality education and professional competencies for personnel working or intending to work in the areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe and beyond. Universities involved in GEMMA are: University of Granada (Spain), University of Bologna (Italy), Central European University of Budapest (Hungary), University of Hull (United Kingdom), University of Łódź (Poland), University of Oviedo (Spain), University of Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Rutgers The State University of New Jersey (USA).

More information: Find out more about the program (detailed description of the scholarships, information on eligibility for scholarships, application procedures, required documents, available mobility routes, courses, etc.) on the website: <http://masteres.ugr.es/gemma/pages/index>

European Institute to Gender Equality (EIGE): [Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming, Towards effective gender training](#)

Call for Proposals: FRIDA Young Feminist Fund (deadline: 20 January 2012)

FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund mobilizes resources, funds and strengthens the participation and leadership of young feminist activists globally. The goal of The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA) is to provide accessible, strategic and responsive funding for young feminist-led initiatives, and to strengthen the capacity of young feminist organizations to both leverage their own resources and increase their social change impact. FRIDA invites applications from groups led by young women and transgender youth under 30 years of age for grants of up to USD 5,000.

Keep in mind and join:

- 4 February 2012: **Swiss Young BPW Network Day (in English) in Luzern, Switzerland**
- 4-6 May 2011: **DACH (D/Germany – A/Austria – CH/Switzerland) Meeting in Lindau, Germany**
- 28-30 Sept. 2012: **Young BPW International Congress in Sorrento**

Miette Dechelle

Young BPW Europe Representative (2011-2014)



Contact:

Email : miette.dechelle@bpw-europe.org
BPW Community: Miette Dechelle

Keep informed:

by visiting the [Young BPW Pages](#) on BPW Europe's website