

Report BPW Cyprus 2003 - 2004 period September 2003 – May 2004.

This has been a very active year full of new challenge. BPW Cyprus has been recognize by the Ministry of Justice and Social Order as the best NGO Organization from all the organizations under the National Machinery of Women's Rights.

At the same time the Minister of Justice appointed me as the President of the Committee for European Programs and has awarded us with an initial amount of 16.000 Euro to establish BPW Office under my direction as a consultancy service towards the Ministry and other organizations.

The Ministry of Justice and Social Order has also awarded us 13.000 Euro to proceed with a second research on Women's Entrepreneurship in Cyprus the basic theme of which will be the comparison between female and male business. Our first research was concluded in 2002 the first ever in Cyprus on "Female Entrepreneurial Activity".

BPW Cyprus together with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry with partners the German, Greek and Italian Chamber of Commerce under the coordination of European Chamber Women Network (ECWN) succeeded to the EU program "Gender Equality and Women in Decision Making" which has already started with the first meeting taking place in Rome on 05/02/2004. This has also been recognized by all bodies and the government of Cyprus as a great success for BPW as our participation in this EU Program to effect in 2003 before Cyprus was a full member of EU. The reason that former Commissioner Mrs. A. Diamantopoulou gave permission was the creation of Women's Co-Operative Bank an initiative by the Majority of BPW Cyprus members which still remains the only one in the world.

Through this program we will transfer to our EU partners, the knowledge of the establishment and the creation of WCB.

I am more than happy to announce also to you that as the president of the newly established EU programs Committee we have manage to participate in the EU program "Restricted Call for Proposals VP/2003/32 DG Employment and Social Affairs" our foreign partners is BPW Germany, BPW Poland and Gender Equality Observatory Greece.

Our newly established BPW consulting office will act as the coordinator of the above program and this has proved a create experience already from the start.

I can not close my report dear friends without telling you that the UK Embassy of Cyprus recognize me as the "Best Business Woman in Cyprus" and for this reason has invited me and I have attended the conference and the ceremony on the occasion of EU enlargement which took place on the 12/05/2004 at Guild Hall in the city of London.

In Cyprus all the 5 clubs (Newly Inaugurated Paphos club with 21 members-No.5) have been very active all organizing events with the main theme "Cyprus in the EU-Women's Entrepreneurs"

I hope that everybody is fine and I truly look forward to meet in you all in Berlin.

Best Regards

Artemis