

Europe

BPW INTERNATIONAL
Business & Professional Women

**Greeting words from Coordinator Gabriella Canonica
for the 15 years anniversary of BPW Arad
Saturday 9th September 2006**

New Dimensions of Leadership: the Theme for these 3 Years since Lucerne 2005 to Mexico 2008

BPW's main focus is on leadership training and giving women responsibilities so that they can advance in their careers and become leaders in their fields.

Our members contribute to society by "supporting women to reach the goal".

Worldwide, BPW projects include vocational training, micro financing, career guidance, encouraging and supporting women in crisis to regain economic independence, mentoring and speaking out on issues of importance.

BPW's strength lies in action more than in words so we need to prioritise the issues that concern us and lobby for appropriate laws and policies at local, state and national levels.

Women are an important force:

One of the most important issues we face is a lack of data to help us understand the current status of women and how to overcome the obstacles that face them, as well as data on the real benefits, the social and financial return on investment, when gender issues are addressed.

A recent article in The Economist described women as the "world's most under-utilised resource" and showed that getting more women into work is part of the solution to many economic woes, including shrinking populations, skills shortages and poverty.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen also has argued that nothing is more important for development today than the economic, political, and social participation of women.

Another important goal should be teaching all children conflict resolution skills from a very early age, something that would have wide ranging personal, societal and international benefits.

BPW believes in partnerships and collaborations. We are happy to work with other organisations with similar aims in order to achieve our common goals, and now is the time to get moving, with networking cross borders, in Europe in the world, with the coming Danube Net and the meetings we plan in the future. With the projects in Europe we can reach quicker our goals to make us visible to the world.

Visibility of our members is MY top topic. It does not help to have wonderful flyers, wonderful homepages, wonderful business cards if we do not know from each other in what profession we are moving, day per day, it does not make any sense to say to the world: hallo... We are the BPW.. !

Who are we? In which segments are WE THE EXPERTS? Did you know, that we have almost in all professions / in economical and social levels top experts and no one knows about them?

The only, and really the only possibility to make ourselves visible, are the business and member pages of in BPW International.

Just some details: one section is pure business, you can promote your products, you can sell over the Business Pages to the world, .. And the other section is just free for ALL members worldwide.

So no need to send me any mails again asking: do we have members in Moldova? In Rumania? In YES WE HAVE. Go and see yourselves.

But of course: first you have to register yourselves into the Tool. And that is very easy.

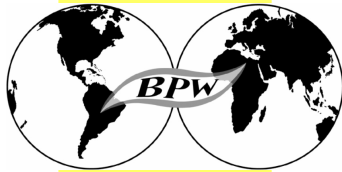
**Gabriella Canonica, Business and Professional Women
Regional Coordinator BPW Europe 2005 - 2008**

Frobenstrasse 46 CH-4053 Basel Switzerland

Mobile +41 79 320 4634

France +33 329 25 0321

gabriella.canonica@bpw-europe.org



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Our aim echoes that of our organization, which is to:
"Develop professional and leadership potential for all women at all levels", with the determination that our effort will lead to "Equal Participation of Women and Men in Power and Decision Making Roles".

And... Facts: not war: -> this leads to Leadership! This is the Theme of our Peace Taskforce and I do like it very much.

Facts of NOT WAR start right in the family. Then at Kindergarten

Then at School and so on to our professional life. And women are somewhat specialists to be looking for harmony everywhere... but:

If we talk about pushing other women to the top -> to be LEADERS... where is our support? Where is our Push?

Sometimes I call it "typical Women-Stories". You know what I mean?

The little stitch in the heart... jealousy. Like the crabs. They are all in a pot, try to reach the top but the crabs below always tear them down, right into the middle of all crabs.

Leadership: it is easier to be in the second row, and not to have to speak out.

Acting locally is easier as acting on a National or even on an International Level!

But... we do train our selves in BPW to stand up and speak.

Like me today, it is not really easy, but I learned a lot in BPW. BPW is for me the LIFE SCHOOL. The training platform, the unique platform where I know that women will and can give me support.

Thank you!

And you too, take the chance, take the opportunity to accept a mission in BPW, to be part of a Board, to be part of a Task Force of a Standing Committee... Step by Step you will reach the top
-> the top to Leadership. Not today, but tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention.

Why did I say: not today? Because today we are celebrating 15 years of BPW Arad...

Congratulations and lets have wonderful hours together, also brainstorming about

Tops -> Leaders -> Women -> and having all together fun.

Fun is the magic word we need never to forget, and the second we may never forget: we are not a charity organisation! That makes THE difference to all the other Service Organisations.

BPW is Unique: Look around, look at the wonderful Ladies sitting next to you!

That is BPW.

I am proud of you!

Thank you for your attention and now: let's celebrate BPW Arad!

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