

BPW Donetsk implements project *“Rural business school for women”* for small towns of Donetsk region. According to this project groups of trainers go to the small towns and during 5 days teach intensive course “How to start own business” for unemployed women. Then there is one day for individual consultations and after that women are preparing own mini business plans. In few days they are defending their business plans and then women can open their businesses.

Such so-called rural business schools will be held in 10 towns of Donetsk region. 25 women will be educated in each town, all in all – 250 women. We are planning to finish the process of education in May-June, 2003.

And after this on September, 5, 2003 a *Forum “Ways of development of women's entrepreneurship in Donetsk region”* will be held for analyzing the results of the project. For this purpose we will gather together all women-graduates of the “Rural business school for women”, trainers-teachers, consultants, representatives of business-associations, executive power bodies, NGOs, Mass Media, scientists, who were taking part in the implementing of the project and guests, altogether there will be 200 participants. During the Forum there will be working two sections: “Attraction of women to self-employment and entrepreneurship” and “Attraction of women to the sphere of decision-making, including governmental”. On the results of the Forum there will be accepted a Resolution of the Forum, which will be sent to all Mass Media of Donetsk region.

The conducting of this Forum will help to promote the development of women's business activity to overcome unemployment and poverty in Donetsk region.

The reasons of implementing project *“Rural business school for women”* in Donetsk region were:

- **The high level of unemployment**, especially among the women. In 2001 in Donetsk region there were registered 163 thousands of unemployed, 61% of them are women. In some places the level of women's unemployment is 82%.
- **The high level of poverty**, the low level of income (48,8% of women-inhabitants of the region are stated as poor, their total income is less than 50% of the average income; Donetsk region is first in Ukraine on the level of debts of the salaries.
- **The poor attraction of population to the entrepreneurship**, especially of women (there are 5 times less women-entrepreneurs, than men).
- **The absence of possibility of getting knowledge and skills of entrepreneurship** in rural places (more than 90% of organizations providing business education and consultations are in the big cities).

So, there is an urgent need for the “Rural business school for women”, which will help to solve these problems. It will help women in a short period to get necessary skills of entrepreneurship, to start business and create working places for themselves and other people, to rise the level of living and help other women to get this knowledge.