



# BPW Europe Events



## First Young BPW Europe Symposium in Lille

### ACT ON YOUR FUTURE !

It was an inspiring and motivating first Young BPW Europe Symposium in Lille under the topic: **Act on your future in a professional and business world.**

Members from 10 different countries came to Lille to participate in this Symposium, which was held during the BPW France National Congress.

Two generations of women came together, to discuss, to debate about women's issues and the actions that we have to put in place to overcome them. Miette Dechelle, Young BPW Europe Representative was the tireless and



Wonderful organizer, with the collaboration of the ECC members Pinella Bombaci and Alessandra Preuss Ribaric, under the expert direction of Sabine Schmelzer, European Coordinator.

The event had been studied in minute detail and the presence of many BPW Authorities gave a true recognition and appreciation.

The International President Freda Miriklis, the First International Vice President Huguette Sena Dossa, the Past International President Tuulikki Juusela, and Young BPW International Representative Anastasia Victoria Safarian really honored this event

And then the young people, so many young people! Some of them have been directly involved in the organization, like Estelle Gille Young BPW Lille Representative.

All of them have been able to enjoy moments of learning, exchange of experiences and good practices, working group, advice and tips for their careers, moments of true friendship and socializing.

The most beautiful feeling was certainly the common understanding that has been established between the young BPW Member and the "young at heart", with a reciprocal and sincere respect and dialogue.

### THE SYMPOSIUM VENU E

*Université Catholique de Lille*



**Capital Letter : Good Practices**

The program started with three high level panels on the first day; First of all , the speakers debated on the importance to take part in BPW, an Association that supports women, at work and in business in various territories and Clubs .

For this, it is important that the Young BPW are in contact with their representatives at local, European and International level.

It also important to share the good practices and different experiences of work.

For this reason, as pointed out by the European Coordinator Sabine Schmelzer the participation in these events is positive, because the young can learn important things but also small things, such as the correct use of the microphone or how being heard ,or to sit in a conference room and how to spread the good practices learned ,in their own countries.

These concepts were reiterated by Representative International Anastasia Safarian who has highlighted the pride of belonging to BPW and the importance to share common experiences.

During this event, significant presence was that of the BPW Past International President Tuulikki Juusela, one of the Founders of the BPW Young. She declared that the Federation must be close to the young and help them in their careers, because the young are the future of our Federation.

They are the future leaders and it's nice that the Université Catholique de Lille has hosted their Symposium, continued the National President of BPW France Christiane Robichon

These meetings offer the young the opportunity to improve their knowledge and to propose legislative measures to enhance the status of women in BPW at work and business.

A movement of common and shared opinion allowed to increase the presence of women on BPW Board from local to National to Regional and International - to Empower Young BPW Members in this position ,imposing its own voice strong and determined.

A strong and determined voice is fighting the devastating problem of violence against women ; and it is just as well that the young women , at work, are aware of these problems and how our Federation confronts them .

**Freda Miriklis, Sabine Schmelzer, Anastasia Safarian , Miette Dechelle**



The speech of the BPW international President Freda Miriklis was very passionate as is her style.

Each Member , especially if young, must share, bring, work , take out the beauty of motivation, ideas, goals, an aim however with their heart; because we have to be sure of one thing, that if on one hand we give something, we receive something from the other side .

In a word, a win-win situation, it is important to have the young people on our board, because there they can represent their needs; and their voice, through our Federation, can reach up to governments , but also at UN level, so that they are part of the Millennium goals.

training courses in Finland, the suggestions from the young from BPW Cyprus, for the optimal organization of an event, and mentoring program of BPW Ukraine, the good practice examples from Belgium, Estonia Germany., Italy and Switzerland.

We must develop in all of us and especially in young people the awareness that the women can play a decisive role in the solution of the current crisis by encouraging and supporting their natural vocation for innovation; we must make sense to the conclusions reached by the World Bank which showed that productivity gains, growth prospects, advanced and better outcomes for future generations are found only if associated with an increased access of women to the productive resources.

A special thanks - she concluded - goes to the BPW Presidents , strong and determined women, but also to all Members, able to build, step by step, the future we want.

One by one the young representatives of the various countries intervned and then they brought all their experiences, for example the



**Finland**



**Switzerland**



**Cyprus**



**Ukraine**



**Estonia**



**Belgium**



**Italy**



**Germany**

**Panel : Working together within BPW**

**What is success?**

To train young women, share their experiences, encourage and assist the development of young , to understand their diversity and their needs at all levels.

**What is a challenge ?**

Be aware that the young are our future, the future of BPW.

Operate in favor of the younger generations , to fight to secure positions in decision-making, ask companies to adopt the WEPs, create challenges in the workplace, reduce wage gap, help young companies, promote contacts with large companies.

In this issue , the resolutions that are adopted in the international congresses are very important.

Also: to give greater visibility to young people, promoting them through the use of propaganda material, use web pages dedicated to them, to improve communication, encourage their entry into BPW Board at all levels.

**What is visibility ?**

To use all the modern forms of communication, to encourage mentoring and networking, and develop the pride of membership, to have an exciting vision, that is to fight against women's discrimination ; also, to form business groups of young .

**How to help the young people ?**

The ways are many: awards, create a special fund, to sponsor the participation of young people in the Congress , do raffles to raise funds. These are all ways to help young people; let us never forget, they represent our future!

**Panel : What you need to know to succeed in your professional life**



Miette 'Supporting Young Women in their start and development of career/business would empowered them to make future leader. Some Tips to develop your professional career:

be visible, creative, make the difference and be yourself ; education and training – know your rights and where to find legal and financial support ; cultivate your talent and be aware of your weaknesses to overcome them . Willing to take risk and not be afraid – you have to learn from your mistake Listen to people, learn from them and to challenge yourself. The specific work environment does not match your belief and principles it might not be a place for you . Share experience good and bad practices . Were in the discussion some tips for your career development as to focus on your network, skills, competences, negotiation, communication and lobbying, learning from each other, find support (internal and external). The Associative life can be a motivation and great stimulation to fight for causes you believe and make you move, stand up, and go forward. It develops yourself .

**The interesting Workshops**

All interesting! The first workshop, lead by Miette, was assigned to brainstorm on previous discussions and to bring together a Young BPW Europe Map. Main tips for Young BPW in Europe were raised and will be developed to guide and support them.



How to organize a successful team, with the wise suggestions of the European Coordinator Sabine Schmelzer , how to raise funds, with all the experience of the Finance Officer Alexandra Preuss Ribaric .

**Young BPW La Spezia Cup 2013**

The Symposium was also the occasion to assign to the BPW La Spezia Cup, in the presence of the Jenny Fumanti, President of BPW La Spezia and Enrichetta Bellini, member of the jury.

This award has been created to highlight the Young women of BPW Europe for their leadership and professionalism. The award was assigned to Mandy Hindenburg, President of club BPW Essen, Germany and Young BPW. A recognition was given to Ketlin Tackman Young BPW Finland Representative to recognize her efforts and achievements.

All the best to the winners !!!!!



**Learn from each other, discuss; work and have fun together !**

