

# Final Report

Round Table Conference, June 25, 2013 in Stockholm



BSR Partnership Platform Gender Innovation for Economic Growth,  
Winnet Center of Excellence



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# Invitation

**Round Table Conference and work meeting in Stockholm, Sweden Tuesday June 25, 2013, 09.00–17.00, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Stockholm, Karlavägen 35**

## Aim

To develop a Winnet Centre of Excellence, Flagship initiative project within "The Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender and Economic Growth".

Presentation of the project idea to the gender researchers representing interested partners in all Baltic Sea Region countries. Identification of the gender and research needs, methods and instruments, based on the experience from research within Gender and Innovation for Economic Growth in Baltic Sea Region.

## Agenda

**09.00 Welcome**, by the Ambassador, Mr. Adam Hałaciński

**09.10 Opening**, by Mrs. Britt-Marie S Torstensson, Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe

**09.15 EUSBSR as a vehicle to boost competitiveness in the region**, by Mr. Erik Kiesow, Swedish NCP for the EUSBSR, EU Coordination's Secretariat, the Prime Minister's Office

**09.30 The European Regional Policy requires partnership to succeed**, MEP Jens Nilsson, Swedish Member of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament

**09.45 Winnet Centre of Excellence – a Quadruple Helix Innovation system for joint knowledge Development and Innovation**, Malin Lindberg, Researcher in gender and innovation, Luleå University of Technology

**10.00 Coffee and time for reflections**

**10.15 The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Gender: challenges for 2014–2020**, Mrs. Ewa Rumińska – Zimny, the International Women Forum at the Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

**10.30 Gender, Innovation and Growth in BSR countries**, Mrs. Marta Hozer-Kocmiel, University of Szczecin, Poland

**10.45 Proposal for a Flagship Initiative – The Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender & Economic Growth**, Mrs. Britt-Marie S Torstensson, Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe

**11.00 Winnet Centre of Excellence in the Baltic Sea Region based on Winnet8 Capitalisation project results**, Mrs. Marta Hozer-Kocmiel, University of Szczecin

**11.15 Presentation and contributions of the researchers and their experience**, ideas and what role in the project they can take

**12.00–13.00 LUNCH**

**13.00 Presentation and contributions of the researchers continues**

**13.30 Round Table Conference, part 1**, Dialogues and Discussion on the Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform:

Objectives

- Work packages
- Activities
- Methods
- Overall budgetary implications

**15.00 Coffee break**

**15.15 Round table Conference, part 2**, Dialogues and Discussion, Vision and Mission, on the Winnet Centre of Excellence in BSR:

Presentation of the Swedish experience

- State of the art,
- The Research needs/Research Agenda,
- Hypotheses,
- Methods,
- Planned outputs

**16.30 Summing up and reflections of the next steps in the project**

**17.00 Closure of the meeting**

**Welcome!**

**WINNET**  
SWEDEN

**SI.**  
Swedish Institute.

UNIWERSYTET  
SZCZECIŃSKI

  
Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Stockholm

  
MIĘDZYNARODOWE  
FORUM KOBIEŃ

To be continued

# The Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender and Economic Growth

**Round Table Conference and work meeting in Stockholm, Sweden Tuesday June 25, 2013, 09.00–17.00 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Stockholm, Karlavägen 35**

## Welcome to the conference

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Mr Adam Halacinski welcomed the participants to the conference, glad to host this event in the historical building (built in the beginning of 20th century) of the Embassy. He thanked Winnet organisation for willing to arrange the event at the premises of the Polish Embassy. On the part of the Embassy, co-organisation of this event is perceived as a sign of commitment of Poland to cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Ambassador Halacinski pointed out to the Swedish and Polish engagement in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and mentioned several reasons why the cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region should be supported.

## Opening of the conference

Mrs Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson, chair of Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe, opened the conference by thanking the Ambassador for hosting the event, and as the ambassador already pointed out the importance of collaboration within the Baltic Sea Region and the importance of a gender perspective in the same, she proposed a short presentation of the participants.

Mrs Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson also moderated the day and led the agenda of the conference.

## EUSBSR as a vehicle to boost competitiveness in the region

*Mr Erik Kiesow, Swedish NCP for the EUSBSR Coordination's Secretariat, the Prime Minister's Office.*

Mr Kiesow starts to say that the cooperation between Sweden and Poland are very good and the Polish Presidency has been very well displayed.

The Baltic Sea Region Strategy was launched by the European Union Parliament, in the council by Sweden

and then it was reviewed with the polish presidency. The results now is a more focused strategy with clear objectives, better prepared framework for 2014 and all the indicators are up to 2020.

The idea is to have 3 targets and objectives; save the sea, connect the region and increase prosperity. These are then broken down to indicators for future measure possibilities. The strategy aims to be more relevant for other policy funding and the next programming period.

In the present negotiation in the parliament, the proposal for all EU structural residence funds, which is a balk for enhance competitiveness and cohesion, are to take the Baltic Sea Region to account and that is a huge benefit. The strategy is constructed in a way that support other policies in EU when it comes to, especially in EU 2020, competitiveness and prosperity.

In the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, gender perspective is important, and that is why Mr Kiesow's remark is competitiveness. Competitiveness is a very complex issue and it is difficult to measure, but on regional bases there are certain things that we can tackle. For example connecting the region, it is about infrastructure but also about connecting people. For competitiveness it is important to develop transporting goods as well as people in EU and BSR. Other areas that we have to tackle are innovation, education and research.

Gender perspective supply side in the Baltic Sea Region Strategy can do more. In this perspective, gender issue is tackling another side of competitiveness, and that is to work with the supply side of employment. And this is something that is highlighted in Sweden when it comes to implementation in EU 2020.

Mr Kiesow ends with saying that this is one of the weaknesses in the Baltic Sea Region Strategy and more can be done, and he is looking forward to the results of this project.

## **The European Regional Policy requires partnership to succeed**

*MEP Jens Nilsson, Swedish Member of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament.*

The roles for the next programming period for EU 2020 are now in preparation and Mr Nilsson gives a picture of the importance of partnership. He was the former mayor of Östersund and was involved in the implementation of the cohesion policy in Jämtland, and in this work he found out that working in partnership is crucial to succeed. Not only cross border partnership geographically, but also borders between both the private and public sector as well civil society.

Evaluations from the 90's and onwards in the Swedish context shows the sustainability when one work in partnership. To exemplify this he gives example when he was the president of the Vinnväx project (a Vinnova project) in Östersund, Sweden over issues such as sport, tourism and outdoor equipment in order to create innovation system in a triple helix perspective. It turned out not be easy to cooperate across borders as they were not accustomed to it and it was a lot of attitudes to work with. As for the success of the project, it was important to create a culture with common goals and gather people who could cooperate and were flexible. This is important, whether it be large or small scale work. Trust and commitment are two important ingredients. To destroy the achievements is easy with just a word, attitude or behavior.

The roles for the EU cohesion program 2020 is soon completed How to behave, is one important role. The EU commission came up with a proposal, "code of conduct" – how to act, how to do this partnership, which also was admitted. The "code of conduct" says that the partnership must be in both making the program and implementing it and in the evaluation of the program. The partnership must consist of representatives from public authorities, economical social partners and from civil society including environmental partners, NGO's, partners promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non discrimination, both on regional and national level.

The cohesion policy is 40 % of the budget so it is important that we reach the goals for 2020.

## **Winnet Centre of Excellence – a Quadruple Helix Innovation System for joint knowledge Development and Innovation**

*Malin Lindberg, Researcher in gender and innovation, Luleå University of Technology*

Winnet Centre of Excellence is an innovation system for joint knowledge development and innovation on gender equal Growth with Women Resource Centres and gender researchers.

Winnet Centre of Excellence was initiated by Winnet Sweden in the Quadruple Helix system for gender equal Growth and is designed for this kind of innovation systems in order to inspire for this flag ship initiative.

Women Resource Centres are differently organised as non-profit organisations or parts of public agencies. They are promoting gender mainstreaming in regional Growth policies and supporting women's employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

In the early 1990s public funds were initiated, channeled through the County Administrations, to encourage the establishment of Women Resource Centers in Sweden. Since 1995 the funding of local and regional WRCs is distributed by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the ongoing financing period are 2013–2015.

Networks between WRCs in Sweden and women's initiatives in different countries were strengthened. Winnet Europe was established 2006 and can be found in 12 countries with about 300 women resource centres, with or without funding. With a bottom-up approach, these resource centres are an important force, driving the gender equality issue for Women's equal conditions.

Innovation systems are networks of actors from different societal sectors who are jointly developing relevant knowledge, transformed into new goods and services being used in organisations and society. This kind of networks and actors from different parts of society as academia, public and private sector and non-profit sector develop new knowledge that are relevant not only to researchers and practitioners but for all in the society at all levels.

The innovation system that Women Resource Centres have organised are realising its vision of this system, but at the same time they are representing marginalised sectors,

industries and innovation because they are built on women's entrepreneurship and innovation, and has been regarded as not relevant in several initiatives. A lot of research shows that it has to do with gender stereotypes and gender assumptions.

In the model of triple helix, collaboration between private companies, universities and policy is requested. Triple Helix primarily acknowledging innovation in men-dominated industries, neglecting innovation among non-profit actors, women and SMEs.

Women Resource Centres are supporting the non-profit sector and have systematically organised innovation systems at the local, regional and national level in Sweden by linking public, private and non-profit sector and academia in a Quadruple Helix model around different topics such as new technology, culture and the service industry. Most Women Resource Centres also serve as project owners and they have successfully brought all this actors together, and as we have heard earlier, it is not that easy.

In Sweden we now have been taking the first steps to form and establish Winnet Centre of Excellence by mapping researchers and research studies, creating meeting places for Women Resource Centres and researchers in a structural way, and preparing joint projects and research studies by applying for joint funding.

Next step is more interactive research processes between the Women Resource Centres and researchers specialised on WRCs in particular, as well as on women's entrepreneurship and innovation in general.

## **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Gender: challenges for 2014–2020**

*Mrs Ewa Ruminska-Zimny, the International Women Forum at the Warsaw School of Economics, Poland*

The model for strategies in national levels and on European level is that gender equality is a separate issue, as well as economic Growth and innovation. So the result is different strategies for gender, economic and innovation and they are not linked together. This, for Mrs Ruminska-Zimny, is the main challenge for this project, for Women Resource Centres and their idea of partnership in a Quadruple Helix perspective. Partnership, as we have heard earlier, will be a strong feature for the next regional

policy and funding. This project can create a platform not only for gender issues but also for Growth concept issues, sharing economic Growth concepts in and for the Baltic Sea Countries.

The gender perspective are marginalised in Europe 2020, European Recovery Plan as well in Cohesion Policy. It is outside policy priorities to build a new Europe through intelligent sustainable and inclusive Growth. In the European Regional Development Fund, equal opportunities as a horizontal priority, but only 8% of gender related programmes had specific strategy, budget and quantified targets in 2000-2006. And in the European Social Fund, only 7% of financing went on equality measures including reconciliation in 2000-2006. In the EQUAL program, 15% of financing went on equality measures.

The Baltic Sea Strategy is the first strategy of the EU related to a macro-region (started 2009), action plan was adopted in 2013, that gives framework for cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area. In the Baltic Sea Region strategy there is three main objectives: to save the sea, to connect the region and to increase prosperity. In these three objectives, gender equality is a horizontal perspective, and one cannot see much of gender in the strategy, only a small reference in PA and SME. In the last minute, Sweden and Poland managed to include a proposal of stronger statement in Action Plan on equality with Growth links.

At the last meeting before the strategy was to be adopted a proposal was made to take place in the action plan. Nobody objected, because it would be politically incorrect. And now the proposal is, as follows down beneath, in the action plan.

*“Successful implementation of the Strategy requires also the adoption of a gender perspective in the governance system and the Action Plan. Equality between men and women is a core value of the European Union. At the same time, economic and business benefits can be gained from enhancing gender equality. In order to achieve the objectives of the EUSBSR the contribution and talents of both women and men should be fully used.”*

Missing a gender perspective is an issue of economic Growth. Women are the main source of new labour in Poland and in Europe, except migration, and gender diversity in innovation, production and management styles pays off. Women tend to be better educated and should be better used in the society.

## **Gender, Innovation and Growth in BSR countries**

*Mrs Marta Hozer-Koćmiel, University of Szczecin, Poland*

Poland was a successful country. When everybody was sinking down, Poland increased its GDP. The main driving force was private consumption, exports, investment and regional funds as Poland had the largest beneficiaries. Investments were most made in infrastructure projects and social structure projects as education, elderly care and childcare were neglected and lacked of investments.

Now Poland has problems with strong gender bias. Poland is suffering from rising unemployment – from 6–7% to over 14 % (2008–2013) and female unemployment are higher than men's despite better education. Fixed terms contracts has increased sharply to 27% and caring jobs in public sector (hospitals, nurses) has been outsourced. And there has not been a progress in further reduction of poverty. Some results from this is less polish women on the labour market and the unemployment rates has sharply increased.

For Poland is the female factor a barrier for Growth at the moment. Decisionmakers have begun to calculate what will happen to the public finances and the pension system if Poland ends up with a vey high rate of an older and elderly society.

Since mid 1980s fertility rates have dropped from the highest (above 2 children/women) to the lowest in Europe (1.2- 1.4). Employment as a prerequisite to have babies is the reversal of trends between participation rates and fertility (Matysiak 2009; d'Addio et al. 2005). If women do not have jobs, they give birth to less children. Implications from the Growth perspective is shortages of labour, presure on public finance, pension system, health care expenditure. Fertility issues is high up on the political agenda, but lack of effective policies as paternal leave. Government expenditures, on family benefits are slightly higher than in Greece, but are still located in the lower part of the scale. The losers in the polish society are single parents and large families. The more children, the poorer they are.

Challenges for the next programming period 2014-2020 and for a flag ship initiative is to define a gender sensitive concept of innovative economy based on BSR experience and identify gender dissagregated indicators of success for EUSBRS. Each country has to prepare specific policy recommendations according to their national conditions and build regional platforms and new partnerships at all levels in a qudruple helix perspective.

Since 2004 has Szczecin University cooperated with Winnet Sweden in the process of creating a Winnet Centre of Excellence and the topic we started to work with was gender, innovation and Growth in Baltic Sea Region. We can apply gender perspective in all areas in society. It is important to link gender to innovation and sustainability. Effective entrepreneurship plus innovation means higher employment, higher economic Growth, and gender plus economic Growth means sustainable development.

Some definitions about gender, focused on those proposed from the European Commission are gender as a concept that refers to the social differences between women and men that have been learned, are changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures. The consideration and attention to the differences in any given policy area/activity are the gender perspective.

How to link gender and innovation? Innovation is the development of new values through solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulate needs, or old customer and market needs in value adding new ways (European Commission). This is accomplished through more effective products, processes, services, technologies, or ideas that are ready available to markets, governments, and society.

When we think of Women Resource Centres as an innovation system, it is important to underline the category of social innovation, which refers to new strategies, concepts, ideas and organisations that meet social needs of all kinds, and has really been done by Women Resource Centres. The European Commission wrote that equal participation of men and women is essential for Europe to exploit the full potential of innovative strengths – not only for demographic reasons, but also in case of innovation processes and results. There is a need to clarify what new cluster policy related measures can support the process to get more women involved in the innovation process of business and research.

How to link innovation and Growth? The Europe 2020 Strategy has three mutually reinforcing priorities, smart Growth developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation, sustainable Growth promoting more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy and inclusive Growth that will foster a high-employment economy and deliver social and territorial cohesion.

What are the methods to link gender and innovation? In the publication “Innovation and Gender” (Vinnova Tillväxtverket – Norskinvasjon) by Inger Danilda and Jennie Thorslund-Granath, we find old methods, such as communication, mapping, monitoring, networking, proposed to be used in new context. These methods are used by Women Resource Centres and researchers.

There is not much research on gender, innovation and sustainable development, but in Mrs Hozer-Koćmiel presentation she refers to some important publications on the subject. (These recommended publications one can find in the added power point presentation.) Researchers need this fielding of empirical studies and issues. For example, Malin Lindberg, representing the researcher

team from the University of Luleå, is organising a conference “Equality, Gender and Growth”, October 3–4, 2013 taking place in October in Luleå, for researchers and practitioners. The result of research in the area will be the essence of the project we are preparing.

There are four ideas for research important to work with to define a broader view of innovation. First to concentrate on modelling the relation between Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development, and it will be micro analyses. It will show the general picture of the situation in each country. Then do a smaller survey on market and non-market innovativeness of women, as we find women often standing out of the innovation system. To create a Winnet web platform for woman innovators, as an intelligent tool that makes use of the latest information technology for users on different levels. At last work with implementation of the time use aspect between women and men, Growth and innovation.

Some facts and figures over unemployment rate in The Baltic Sea Region countries during the crise shows higher rate in countries such as Poland and lowe rate in the nordic countries.

If we look at the real GDP the more greener colour the more GDP – the more yellow the lower GDP.

### Real GDP per capita, Growth rate and totals

2013

Percentage change on previous year, EUR per inhabitant – 2014  
Percentage change on previous period



Legend

2.3 – 0.7

0.7 – 1.2

1.2 – 1.9

1.9 – 2.6

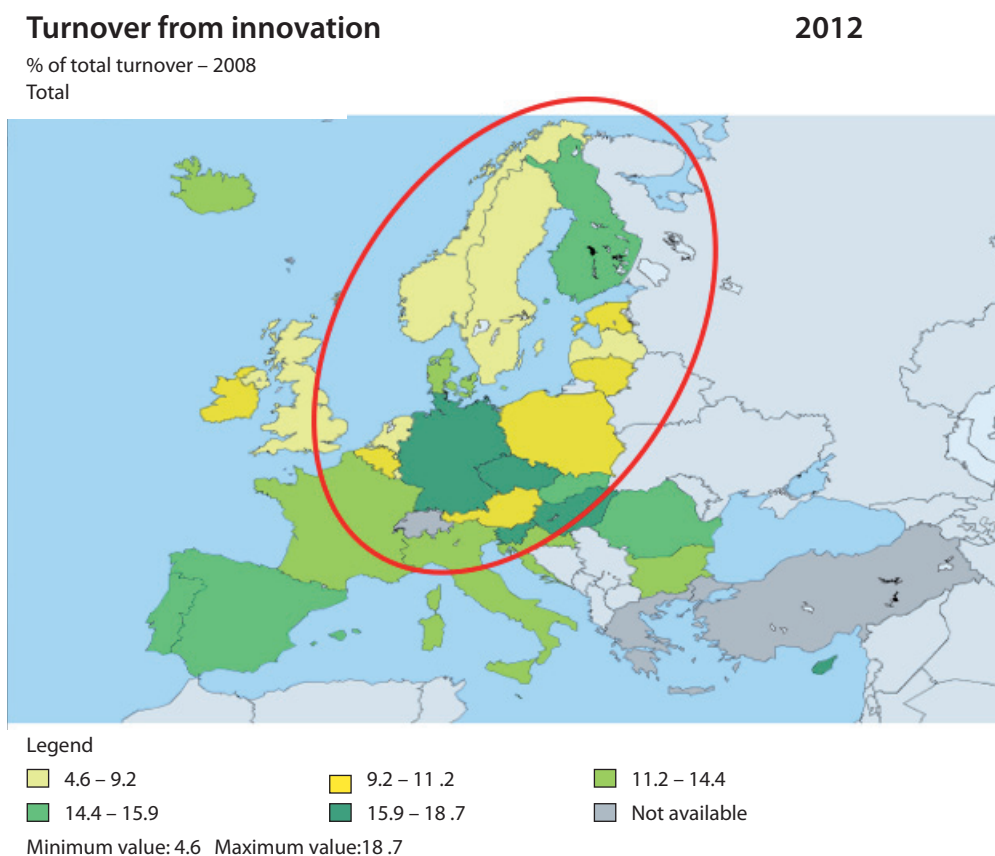
2.6 – 5.6

Not available

Minimum value: 2.3 Maximum value: 5.6



If we link it to innovation the situation is the opposite. Green islands become yellow islands. The more yellow colour, the percentage of turnover is lower and the more green colour, the better situation.



What are the characteristics to be used to see the link between gender, innovation and sustainable development? If we want to have a gender perspective we have to look at the correlation between Growth and some variables. For example; the lower GDP per capita in PPS or Euro, the more females are at risk of poverty and long term unemployment. The Pearson coefficient between those characteristics shows the relationship between two categories. If the values is close to 1 or -1, it means that the relation is strong. If the values is ground zero, it means that the relation doesn't exist or is weak. In measure one can see that the higher GDP per capita, the lower female risk of poverty. The higher GDP the higher, the higher of healthy life years of women and the higher GDP, the higher are womens economic opportunities.

If we look at the time use in minutes per day for women, in chosen Baltic Sea countries, the numbers shows most used time in unpaid work and leisure. And this aspect is a need of more research.

### **Proposal for a Flagship initiative – The Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender & Economic Growth.**

*Mrs Britt-Marie S Torstensson,  
Winnet Sweden and Winnet Europe*

The seedfinanced project the Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender & Economic Growth is approved by the Swedish Institute, Szczecin University and International Women Forum at the Warsaw School of Economics with Winnet Sweden as project owner.

Background of the project is the Interreg IV C capitalisation project Winnet 8, which aimed to spread out Women Resource Centre model and to shape regional, national and EU-level policies and development programmes with implemented gender perspective.

The objectives in this project are to establish a Baltic Sea Region partnership to be interactive together, and to set up a Winnet Centre of Excellence. In Sweden, WCE, is ongoing but is needed to be developed further and at Szczecin University, the platform for BSR Winnet Centre

of Excellence work work is established. Next step will be to establish Winnet Centre of Excellence in all Baltic Sea countries.

We have now almost a formed partnership, just some steps left. And we have a platform for Baltic Sea Region in support of Poland and now also to develop a flagship initiative in gender and innovation for Growth, including entrepreneurship and ICT issue.

The goal is that at the end of 2013 have enough basis to go on develop the flagship initiative project.

## **Winnet Centre of Excellence in the Baltic Sea region based on Winnet8 Capitalisation project results**

*Mrs Marta Hozer-Koćmiel, University of Szczecin*

The definition for Winnet Centre of Excellence in Baltic Sea Region is that WCE is the international network of researchers in the Baltic Sea Region for purpose of doing and promoting research, teaching and policy making on Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Growth.

Winnet Centre of Excellence is going to work with three important components, the academic component, networking component and last the practical component which means researchers networking with practitioners. The basic activities taking place in the centre will be policy oriented research, publication of monographs and papers, promotion of gender equitable approach to social and economic development and organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops.

In Winnet8 Interreg IV C Capitalisation project there were many good results to be used. Here I focus on the most important.

First results are action plans in nine regions, signed and improved by the mayor of each region. The action plan is a description over the region, a SWOT analyze and five ideas how to implement gender equality in the region Growth and labour market.

Second result is the Quadruple Helix model, which is the answer how to link the four sectors; academia, policy makers, business and civil society. The method is to arrange round table discussions and most effective round tables is with more less participants and the outcome of the discussions then gives more result.

Third result from the project is a set of 40 good practises

collected in a guide, how to strengthen the work with gender equality in many areas.

Fourth and last result, the most important, is recommendation of EU policies in different areas as labour market, entrepreneurship and innovation, social development. In preparing the flagship project we will form some further recommendations and they will be strongly related to sustainable development.

There will be several thematic blocks of the Winnet Centre of Excellence depending on the researchers and their interest. That will form the partnership in the flagship initiative. One thematic block will be innovation strongly connected to entrepreneurship and it is important to model the relation between gender, innovation and sustainable development. There will be a strong group analysing the strategic documents as we want to stay close to the macro policy.

Another thematic block will be feminisation of poverty with inclusion of the time aspect and gender budgeting. We are open to other research topics and what Szczecin University will focus in. We plan to make a survey on market and non market innovativeness of women.

There will be comparative statistic analyses showing general pictures of gender, innovation and sustainable development. The time use variables will be involved to analyse non market activities.

The Winnet Web Platform, created in the flagship project will be a complementary to the academic and practical network and it will be formed in order to extend exchange between Winnet Centre of Excellence and Women Resource Centre.

## **Summary of reflections and contribution of the researchers and their experience from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania**

### **LATVIA**

In Latvia there is a lack of data, more is needed to give some evidens. The need of support in policy is also important. Latvia do not have a network of researchers, they have mostly been partners on project basis, but see the possibilities with booth creating a Winnet Centre of Excellence and Women Resource Centres for micro studies, to support connection between micro and meso level when it comes to gender awared policy for innovation and entrepreneurship. The gender perspective have been marginalised and therefor nearly lost.

## ESTONIA

In Estonia the link between enterprises and research have been tried most in projects when cooperation and connecting was forced. And a lot of sleeping networks are the result from many projects with many partners. Some good examples of connecting one can find from the municipality level with researchers, local actors and SMEs sharing information. The definition of innovation needs to be broadened because innovation exist in daily life. Innovation is not only ICT, one can find it for example in design and textile to. Also in Estonia there is a lack of data when it comes to gender and lack of basic funding. Estonia see the need of establishing Women Resource Centres.

## LITHUANIA

In Lithuania, the intercoordination of women research, women information and women support does not exist in any significant extent. There is a lack of Women Resource Centres and other women support centres. In Lithuania one can find women study centres in the largest universities. The link between gender, innovation and Growth are very weak and the most difficult partners to build partnership with are enterprises.

Overall, one can say that here is an interest in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to secure and promote the project idea and the Flagship idea as well to secure interested and active partners/participants, with a Quadruple Helix perspective (i.e. NGO, Private, public authorities and Academia) in the next phase.

## Summary of reflections and contributions of other Baltic Sea Countries around the table

Here are some reflections from the participants, on the presentations made before lunch and contributions for the next step in the flagship initiative.

Hanseatic parliament, an association of more than 50 chambers around the Baltic Sea, have direct contact with about 400 000 SMEs and with the topic women entrepreneurship we are now in project QUICK-IGA, for equal opportunities in the labor market. The results of this work can be useful for developing Winnet Centre of Excellence further and the Norden Association offer experience and knowledge. One reflection is the cooperation between the universities in Luleå and Szczecin, the embryo for Winnet Centre of Excellence in Baltic Sea Region. It is a good example of cooperation,

which will be taken for consideration in the preparation of action plans for cooperation within the whole region, in QUICK-IGA, not only for scientific research but also including other areas as enterprises.

Another reflection is the need of practitioners, for example a council of actors from non-profit organisations for promotion of entrepreneurship is newly established in Sweden. Nyföretagarcentrum, which was established in Latvia by Swedish banks and Chamber of Commerce, is one actor and offer to Latvia experience and knowledge. Theoretical framework research is needed to be followed up with practical implementation, and Nyföretagarcentrum want to be viewed as a partner in the implementation.

Advices from Barbro Widing, Finland, is to give the cause of immigration more space in the flagship initiative as there is some certain trends in the society, and also to open up for other countries as Russia, Norway, Island and add to the proposal a new view of contact with other external countries.

Lena Rooth from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, points out the importance for small business organisations to include women entrepreneurs and the gender issue, for which they can get support from chambers of commerce. One advice is to look at the Nordic Council flagship initiative, which they are forming for the next period, if there is some to share or connect. Also look at how Sweden conducts the network of female business angels. Mrs Rooth also points out that innovation has to be better connected with public funding like developing and research. Especially in the phase of commercialisation where there is a gap. And at last gives an advice to work with gender budgeting as a tool for results.

Håkan Ottoson, Ottoson Consulting, indicates that when we talk about innovation we must add smart specialisation, which is a good method to use in the flagship. He also recommend to look at the Baltic Development Forum published reports and knowledge of economical Growth.

Mrs Åsa Hildestrand from the Ministry of Enterprise, points out the need of creating a clear structure in this project and clarify the connection of gender and innovation for sustainable Growth. Second this flagship could help implementing the gender issue to other flagships.

One idea of the flagship is to be the strategy for gender in the whole of European Union, and the Baltic Sea Region will become the most gender mainstreamed.

The papers to the Parliament from Swedish point of view is now under preparation, so this could be the opportunity to put the new topic that everyone is demanding.

Mrs Marta Hozeir-Koćmiel and Mrs Hildestrand agrees, that outlines in all programs should be mainstreamed, at least gender analysed based on deep research.

The next reflection comes from Mr Stefan Cairen, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, and he advice to focus on creating concrete results. Create activities from women's point of view and perspective, and organise platforms for meetings for SME run by women only. Put the aim high enough to make it visible and wanted. Mr Cairen can provide methods for making this successful.

Mrs Chatarina Nordström, Winnet Sweden, would like to emphasise the importance of new and ongoing research and the collaboration between researchers and practitioners to turn knowledge into daily life. Winnet8 project is one example on exchange for learning both ways in a Quadruple Helix perspective for changes in the society. Mrs Marta Hozer-Koćmiel agrees and added that the four actors must collaborate well to get synergy effects. It is also important not to be too general, more focus to innovation, which is total gender blind, and get the gender issue approved.

## **Round Table Conference, part 1, dialogues and discussions**

*Presentation done by Mrs Hozer-Koćmiel  
from the work shop in April in Szczecin.*

The first outcast of the main objectives was formed by the participating researchers and practitioners in the project.

The main objective is to integrate a gender perspective into innovation policies, through research, policy action plans, supporting women entrepreneurs and the area ICT. In this objective there is a clear connection between practitioners, research and policy makers.

There is 4 detailed objectives for preparing the flagship and they are as follows;

- Redefining innovation policies combining social and technological dimensions from a gender perspective. Rethink and criticize existing definitions and make

better proposals. WRC is one example of social innovation.

- Exchange of knowledge and experience on different levels to create the innovative environment for gender issues in civil society. And this is strongly correlated to actions in Winnet Centre of Excellence.
- Creation of methodology, recommendations and action plan how to include gender perspective into the innovation oriented Sustainable Development in BSR countries. This is a tool to get a common picture and promoting women innovators with practical, statistical and qualitative methods.
- Promotion of innovativeness among women (entrepreneurs) in BSR countries in order to more equal usage of human resources. The term “more equal usage ...” is useful to give rational arguments to enter gender issues.

## **Results from work shop discussions over objectives, work package, methods and activities**

- The main title for the flagship has to correspond to the overall objectives, there for innovation must be found in the title.
- A proposal that the main objective must consist Growth and sustainable development.
- Supporting women entrepreneurship is to general described, more description of creating the strategic network.
- Clarifying what will be done in the research component and creation of Winnet Centre of Excellence.
- Important to bring out the innovation issue in the activities.
- Make gender analyzes and implementing gender perspective for other flagship projects.
- Discussion over the research agenda; what is research and what are the researchers addressed to bring to the project, assembling data, how to evaluate and how to present them in a more comparable way in different countries.
- The process of create the Winnet Centre of Excellence, in each BSR country or only coordinators in Poland and Sweden.
- Highlight BSR as a test bed in learning processes for implementing gender perspective in methods and actions.
- Important to have a clear idea of implementation of the objectives, how to go from policy to practical deliver.

- The aim and objective is to identify the participants, for the network in a Quadruple Helix perspective, in each of the participating countries.
- How to implement and include the service directive from EU in the work package of Winnet Centre of Excellence, as one can find many women enterprises there.
- Observe that the vision of Winnet Centre of Excellence must be linked to the third objective – prosperity – if the flagship will be organized under that objective. How Winnet Centre of Excellence contribute to the objective.
- Through activities in Winnet Centre of Excellence, contribute to the objectives of prosperity through more equal usage of human resources on equal terms.

### ***Final proposal how and where to anchor the Flagship***

The idea to make three priorities in the aim was given in the discussions; to cross innovation with education and SMEs and under each one, identify at least three areas which the project can contribute with.

Out of this idea came the proposal to anchor this as a horizontal flagship under the third objective in the strategy; prosperity; were education, SME and innovation already are linked. With this solution to link the flagship to Increase prosperity, with new solutions of interacting, methods and tools for business communication there will be a lot achieved in gender issues.

***This proposal was taken from each one of participants around the table and the proposal will be further developed and adjusted.***

## **Results from the discussion of the vision of Winnet Centre of Excellence**

The vision for Winnet Centre of Excellence is common and overall umbrella that can be translated in to each BSR country.

A lot of good ideas came out of the discussion:

- Winnet Centre of Excellence as the leading platform in Europe for gender research
- Winnet Centre of Excellence with a Quadruple Helix perspective to be a forum for fruitful dialogues
- The vision of Winnet Centre of Excellence is to make knowledge, statistics and facts visible, and academics coming closer to civil society.

### ***Final proposal of vision for Winnet Centre of Excellence***

From these discussions emerged a draft vision for Winnet Centre of Excellence.

The vision of Winnet Centre of Excellence is to contribute to prosperity, innovation and Growth by:

- making diversity/gender equality visible and easy to implement or
- making use of the full potential of all individuals and all groups.

***All participants around the table agreed on this proposal, and it will be further processed.***

## **Summing up**

The timetable for progress in the project

- The 12<sup>th</sup> of September a Round Table and meeting in Stockholm, for following up the results from this conference.
- The 23<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a conference in Warsaw, Poland for practitioners, researchers and other active partners.

If the proposal goes to a decision to anchor the flagship under the objective prosperity, there must be awareness of the formal procedures in the application process.

***Finally, Mrs Britt-Marie S Torstensson thanked all participants for contributing to the roundtable discussions, which means that a lot have been achieved in the project already.***

# Annex

Presentation June 25 2013

*Malin Lindberg*

## Winnet Centre of Excellence

a Quadruple Helix innovation system  
for joint knowledge development and innovation

Round Table Conference and work meeting  
Stockholm, Sweden, 25 June 2013

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## Winnet Centre of Excellence

... for joint knowledge development and  
innovation ...  
... and gender researchers ...  
... with Women Resource Centres ...  
... is an innovation system ...  
... initiated by Winnet Sweden ...  
... on gender equal Growth ...

---

## Women Resource Centres

... or parts of public agencies ...  
... and supporting women's employment,  
entrepreneurship and innovation ...  
... promoting gender mainstreaming in  
regional Growth policies ...  
... are non-profit organizations...

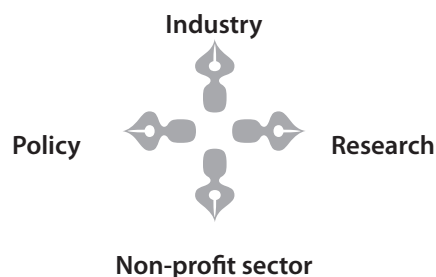
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## Innovation systems

... are networks ...  
... of actors from different societal sectors ...  
... being used in organisations and society ...  
... that is transformed into new goods and services ...  
... are networks ...  
... jointly developing relevant knowledge ...

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## From Triple Helix to Quadruple Helix innovation systems



Triple Helix Primarily acknowledging innovation  
in mendominated industries, neglecting innovation  
among non-profit actors, women and SMEs

Quadruple Helix Primarily reflecting gender-  
balanced industries, acknowledging non-profit actors,  
women and SMEs

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## Winnet Centre of Excellence development steps

First step Mapping researchers and research studies  
Second step Meeting places for WRCs and researchers  
Third step Joint projects and research studies

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## **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Gender: Challenges for 2014–2020**

Ewa Ruminska-Zimny, PhD  
Stockholm, 25 June 2013

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### **EU Strategies and Gender**

- Marginalized in Europe 2020, European Recovery Plan, Cohesion Policy
- Outside policy priorities to build a new Europe through intelligent (innovation, R&D, education), sustainable (SMEs, green economy) and inclusive Growth
- European Regional Development Fund: equal opportunities as a horizontal priority –but only 8% of gender related programmes had specific strategy, budget and quantified targets (2000–2006)

European Social Fund --only 7% of financing went on equality measures incl. reconciliation (2000–2006); EQUAL --15%

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### **EU Strategy for BSR**

- Framework for cooperation in BSR area
  - First Strategy of the EU related to a macroregion (started 2009); Action Plan adopted 2013
  - Three main objectives: “To Save the Sea”; “To Connect the Region”; “To Increase Prosperity”
- 

### **Priorities within objectives**

- “To Save the Sea” (clean Baltic Sea water; protect inhabitants of the Baltic Sea; safe shipping; cooperation)
  - “To Connect the Region” (transport, energy, people, fighting crime)
  - “To Increase Prosperity” (common market; support Europe 2020; increasing competitiveness of BSR, adapting to climate change)
- 

## **Gender in EUSBSR**

- Only a small reference in PA SME
  - The (last minute ) proposal of Sweden and Poland to include a stronger statement in Action Plan on equality- Growth links
  - Lack of specific actions/flagship projects/success indicators in specific priorities/ areas
  - That is why a Flagship on Gender and Economic Growth in BSR is so important
- 

### **EUSBSR Action Plan “gender” para**

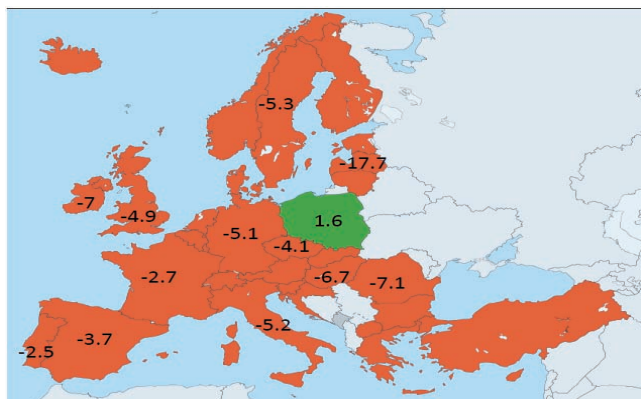
“Successful implementation of the Strategy requires also the adoption of a gender perspective in the governance system and the Action Plan. Equality between men and women is a core value of the European Union. At the same time, economic and business benefits can be gained from enhancing gender equality. In order to achieve the objectives of the EUSBSR the contribution and talents of both women and men should be fully used.”

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### **Missing a gender perspective is an issue of economic Growth**

- It is an issue of fairness but also a common sense in ageing societies | Women are the main source of new labour in Poland and in Europe (except migration)
  - Gender diversity in innovation, production and management styles pays off
  - Investments in women’s education should be better used
-

## Poland as a "Green Island", GDP change 2009



Term 'green island' was invented and popularized by Polish government officials at media conference in 2009

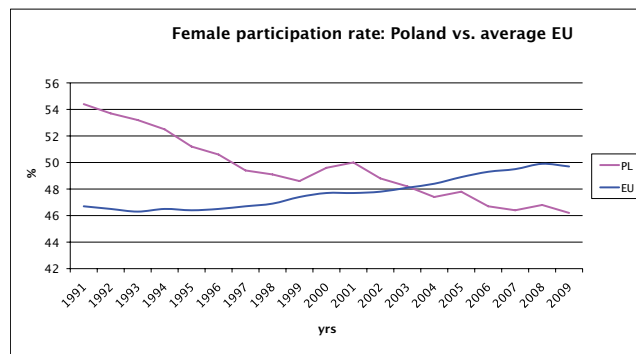
### Growth factors and context

- GDP Growth continued in 2010 (3.9%), 2011 (4.3%) and 2012 (even if at a slower pace of 2%)
- Driven by private consumption, exports and investments: good situation banking/housing s.
- And supported by the EU regional policy funds (PL the largest beneficiary due to its size, development gap and share of agriculture – 68 bln euro plus 18 bln euro agriculture 2007–2013)
- Big infrastructure projects (football EURO 2012) and flexible exchange rate PLN

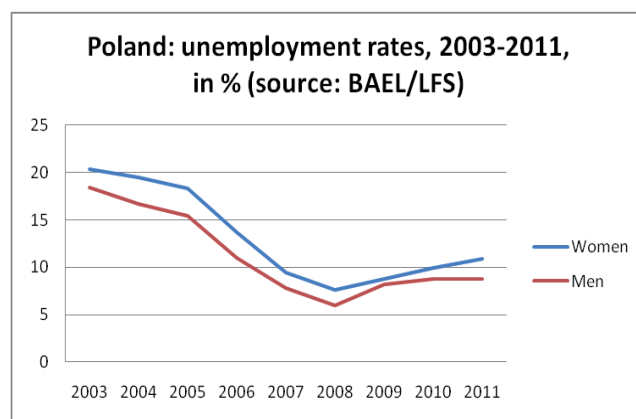
### Problems: less green with a strong gender bias

- Jobless Growth and rising unemployment -from 6–7% to over 14 % (2008–2013); female unemployment higher than men's despite better education
- Sharp increase of fixed-term contracts to 27% of all work contracts ("junk/trash contracts"); including female caring jobs in public sector (hospitals, nurses)
- No progress in further reduction of poverty
- Lack of investments in social infrastructure; including child/elderly institutional care

## Less Polish women on the labour market



### More difficult to find a job

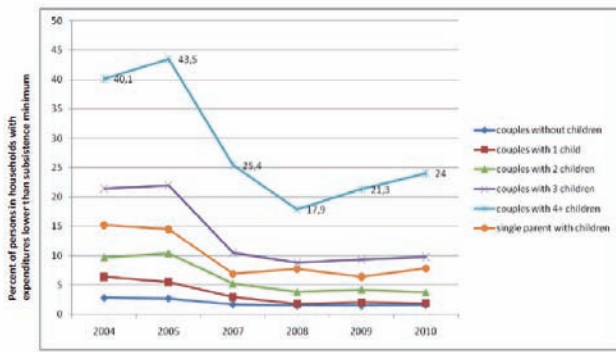


## Female factor as barrier to further Growth

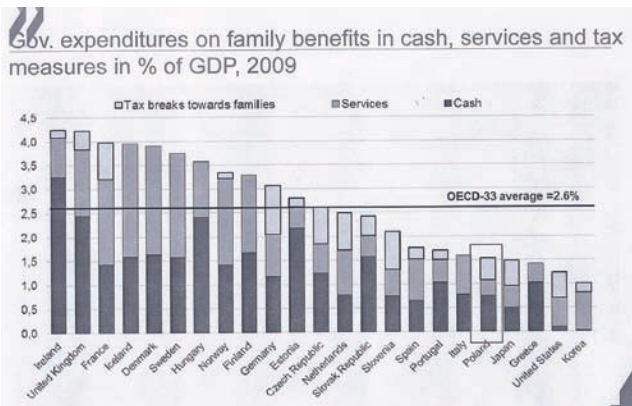
- Since mid 1980s fertility rates have dropped from the highest (above 2 children/women) to the lowest in Europe (1.2- 1.4)
- Employment as a prerequisite to have babies – the reversal of trends between participation rates and fertility (Matysiak 2009; d'Addio et al. 2005)
- Implications: shortages of labour, pressure on public finance, pension system, health care expenditure
- Fertility high on political agenda – but no effective policies



## Family benefits: slightly higher than in Greece (OECD data O. Thevenon\*)



## The losers: single parents and large families (GUS/HHS data)



## Challenges for 2014–2020

- Defining a gender sensitive concept of innovative economy based on BSR experience
- Identifying gender disaggregated indicators of success for EUSBRs
- Preparing country specific policy recommendations
- Building a regional platform and new partnerships at all levels

## **Gender, Innovation and Growth in BSR countries**

### **Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development in BSR countries**

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#### **Outline**

- 1 Definitions – let's be precise...
  - 2 How to link gender and innovation?
  - 3 Gender perspective and innovative capacity
  - 4 Methods
  - 5 Innovation and development
  - 6 Research on Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development
  - 7 Facts and figures
- 

#### **Lets be precise – some definitions...**

**Gender:** A concept that refers to the social differences between women and men that have been learned, are changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures.

**Gender equality:** The concept meaning that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by strict gender roles.

**Gender perspective:** The consideration and attention to the differences in any given policy area/activity.

(100 words for equality. A glossary of terms on Equality between Women and Men, European Commission)

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#### **How to link gender and innovation?**

**Innovation** is the development of new values through solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulate needs, or old customer and market needs in value adding new ways (European Commission). This is accomplished through more effective products, processes, services, technologies, or ideas that are readily available to markets, governments, and society.

**Social innovation** refers to new strategies, concepts, ideas and organizations that meet social needs of all kinds — from working conditions and education to community development and health — and that extend and strengthen civil society.

**Equal participation** of men and women is essential for Europe to exploit the full potential of innovative strengths – not only for demographic reasons, but also in case of innovation processes and results. **There is a need to clarify what new cluster policy related measures can support the process to get more women involved in the innovation process of business and research.**

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#### **How innovation milieus can use gender perspective to increase innovative capacity?**

The six statements come from the publication Gender and Innovation, by I. Danilda and Jennie Thorslund Granath, Vinnova Tillväxtverket, Norsk Inovasjon, a micro approach

##### **Statement 1**

Competition for well-educated employees – Companies employing effective diversity inclusion practices benefit most both economically and socially.

##### **Statement 2**

Competition through better decisions - For companies as well as innovation milieus, gender diversity makes for improved decision-making at all organisational levels and results in better decisions.

##### **Statement 3**

Gender diversity as the driver of creativity and innovation – Innovation is about creating something new and is enhanced by diversity in gender, experiences, perspectives, knowledge and networks. Individuals – women and men – who are allowed to develop their full potential will be creative, engaged and willing to take

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##### **Statement 4**

Competition with user-driven innovation – User-driven innovation creates successful new concepts, products and services for companies and organisations. Users are both men and women!

to be continued

### **Statement 5**

Gender as means of design innovation – Consumers are interested in the individualization of products and in products that break with traditional gender stereotypes.

### **Statement 6**

Competition by image shaping - Gender diversity benefits an organisation's image.

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## **How to link innovation and Growth/ Development?**

The Europe 2020 Strategy has three mutually reinforcing priorities:

Smart Growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.

Sustainable Growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.

Inclusive Growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion (www.ec.europa.eu).

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## **Methods to link Gender and**

Innovation (I. Danilda, Innovation and Gender)  
Old Methods in New Context

- 1 Foresight Exercises – scanning, trend analysis, future studies, scenario constructions and search conferences to detect change in the innovation milieu's surroundings.
- 2 Communication – Clear, concise internal and external communication of the approach to innovation and gender is crucial to imparting a reliable, sustainable picture of a cluster's identity and values.
- 3 Mapping of industries and the regional context, necessary for the design of effective instruments for innovation milieus.
- 4 Setting qualitative and quantitative targets - Based on foresights and mapping, key performance indicators need to be established in order to track progress against planned strategic actions.
- 5 Monitoring – a system which can provide data to determine the extent of goal achievement.

6 Networking

7 Mentoring

8 Coaching

9 Gender-aware design

10 Applied gender research – gender researchers work in teams with project leaders, process leaders and/or consultants specialising in innovation and gender.

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## **Research on Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development**

Innovation and Gender, I. Danilda & J. Thorslund, Vinnova 2011

Impacts of innovation policy, lessons from VINNOVA's impact studies, L. Elg & S. Hakansson, Vinnova 2012

A study on gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development, G. Johnsson-Latham, Report to the Environment Advisory Council, Sweden 2007

Women, the environment and sustainable development: towards a theoretical synthesis, R. Braidotti et al, Zed Books, London 1994

Women's economic opportunity 2012, A global index and ranking from the Economist Intelligence Unit

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## **Research on Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development**

Gender and sustainable development: Still a missing link? I. Kumar, Thomson Reuters Foundation, 2012

Gender Equality, Economic Growth and Employment, A. Löfström, Umea University

Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, J.E. Stiglitz, A. Sen, J.P.

Fitoussi [www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr](http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr)

.....

Conference on Equality, Growth and Innovation - In Theory and Practice – 9– 10 October 2013, Luleå, Sweden

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## ABC of our ideas for the Research ...

**A**

Modelling the relation between Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development – quantitative research on a macro and mezzo level

**B**

A survey on market and non-market innovativeness of women – a micro level

**C**

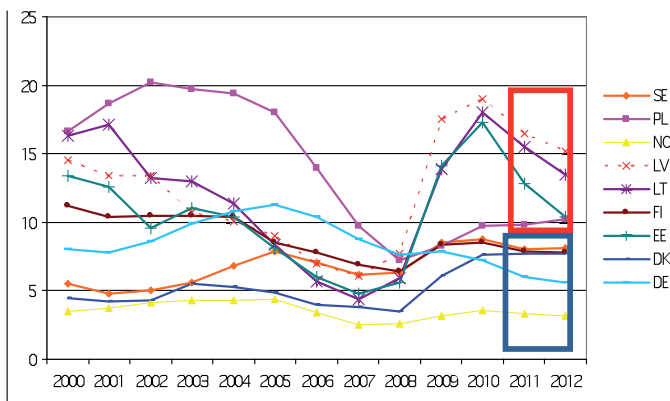
WINNET web platform for woman innovators – an intelligent

tool which makes use of the latest information technology

**D**

Time use aspect of Growth and Innovation

## Facts and figures – Unemployment rate in BSR countries in crisis



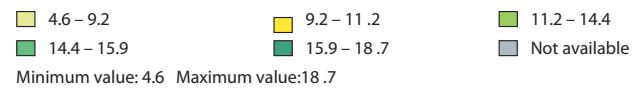
## Turnover from innovation

2012

% of total turnover – 2008



Legend



## Facts and figures – Correlation between Growth and chosen I&SD variables

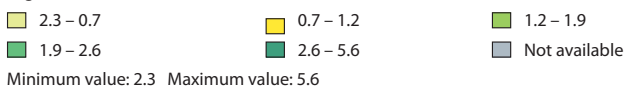
Country	GDP per capita in PPS	GDP growth	Females at risk of poverty %	Long term unempl of women	Healthy life years of women	Innovative enterprises	Women's Economic Opportun/ rank	Share of women researchers
Denmark	125	-0.5	13	2.1	59.4	39.7	81.3	15.4
Germany	121	0.7	16.8	2.3	58.7	24.3	86.3	20.6
Estonia	68	3.2	16.2	4.9	57.9	42.1	71.7	41.4
Latvia	62	5.6	18.4	6.9	56.7	29.1	72.1	46.8
Lithuania	70	3.7	20.1	5.7	62.1	43.3	77	50.8
Poland	66	1.9	17.6	4.6	63.3	33.5	70.2	38.4
Finland	115	-0.2	14.2	1.2	58.3	39.8	88.2	X
Sweden	128	0.7	15.7	1.3	70.2	38.3	90.4	29.8
Norway	195	3.1	12.2	0.5	70	30.6	88.3	X

## Real GDP per capita, Growth rate and totals 2013

Percentage change on previous year, EUR per inhabitant – 2014  
 Percentage change on previous period



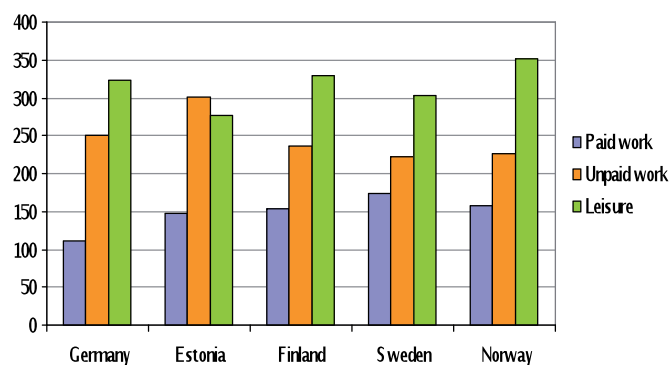
Legend



## Facts and figures – Pearson Coefficients

	GDP per capita in PPS	GDP growth
Females at risk of poverty %	-0,81	0,54
Long term unempl of women	-0,89	0,74
Healthy life years of women	0,61	-0,08
Innovative enterprises	-0,26	-0,15
Women's Economic Opportunity	0,82	-0,58
Innov_share of women researchers	-0,88	0,90

## Facts and figures – Time use in chosen BSR countries in minutes per day



## Winnet Centre of Excellence in BSR

Winnet Centre of Excellence – the international network of researchers in the Baltic Sea Region for the purpose of doing and promoting research, teaching and policy making (on Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development)

### 3 Components of Winnet Centre of Excellence

- The academic component
- The networking component
- The practical component

### 3 Basic activities

- Policy oriented research
- Publication of monographs and papers
- Promotion of gender equitable approach to social and economic development
- Organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops

## 4 Winnet8 Interreg IVC Capitalisation project results –

### 1) ACTION PLANS

5 Steps on the Path to Gender Equality in the North Middle Sweden Region ROP, 2014–2020

**Step 1.** Implementation of the Good Practice from Finland – “FEM – Female Entrepreneurs’ Meetings in the Baltic Sea Region”

**Step 2.** Implementation of the Good Practice from the United Kingdom- “Women’s Technology Centre & Women Into Technology (WIT)”

**Step 3.** Implementation of the Good Practice from Sweden – “Gävleborg Jämt

**Step 4.** Creation of WINNET Centre of Excellence in POLAND



## Winnet8 Interreg IVC Capitalisation project results

### 2) Quadruple Helix Model – Representation of Academia, Policy Makers, Business and Civil Society (WRC)

Method: Round Table Discussions

## Winnet8 Interreg IVC Capitalisation project results –

### 3) GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

1. Introduction
2. Women’s Resource Centres and Mobilisation
3. Horizontal Occupational Segregation
4. Innovation and Organizational Development
5. Leadership and Entrepreneurship

“The future Cohesion Policy requires major attention being paid to the gender dimension and actions such as WINNET 8 can only reinforce economic and social cohesion throughout the Union” prof. Danuta Hübner Chair, Committee on Regional Development European Parliament



# Winnet8 Interreg IVC Capitalisation project results –

## 4) RECCOMENDATIONS TO EU POLICIES

1. INTRODUCTION
2. POLICIES FOR SMART AND INCLUSIVE Growth
3. WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRES
4. ROUND TABLES AND CONSULTATIONS
5. CHALLENGING PATTERNS OF PRIORITISATION
6. A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND AN INNOVATIVE TESTBED IN BSR
7. WINNET 8 X 8 PRIORITIES FOR THE COHESION POLICY
8. ANNEX 1. SIX KEY MESSAGES FOR THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS



### Thematic blocks of the Winnet Centre of Excellence

- Innovation + Entrepreneurship
- Statistical analysis: Modelling of the relation between Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development
- Analysis of the strategic documents
- Family policy vs. barriers to professional development
- Feminization of poverty with the inclusion of time aspect
- Gender budgeting

## 1) Innovation + Entrepreneurship

A survey on market and non-market innovativeness of women – Quantitative research on a micro level

Standard classification of innovation (including product, process, marketing, organizational and eco innovation)

A. Sen, J. Stiglitz, Fitoussi and G. Becker postulate to include the non-market sphere (housework and leisure) in the research of sustainable development and social welfare.

New expanded definition of women innovativeness which takes into account also the non-market

## 2) Modelling of the relation between Gender, Innovation and Sustainable Development

Comparative analysis of the BSR economies on macro level

Quantitative methods: linear and nonlinear econometric models of relations and dynamics models, classical methods of statistical analysis, chosen methods of spatial econometrics.

Time use variables involved to analyse non market activities and phenomena – data from HETUS – Harmonised European Time Use Survey.

## 3) Winnet Web Platform

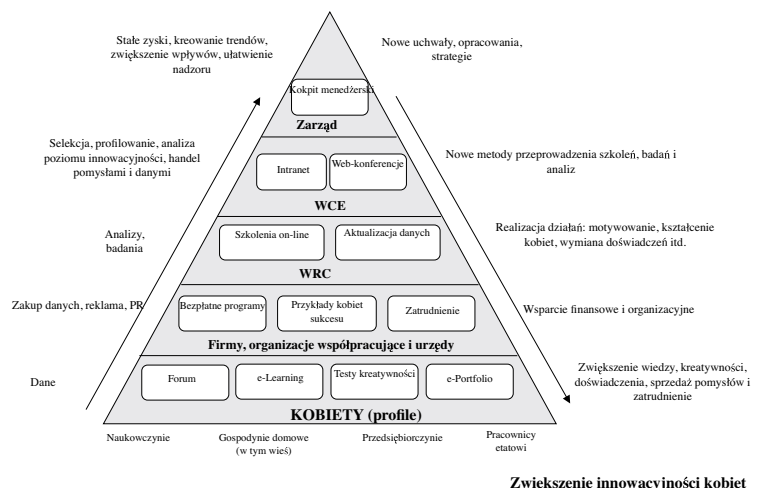
An intelligent tool making use of the latest information technology

Complementary to the academic and practical network

IT tool reaching some of the unused human resources e.g. as women who are economically inactive, yet innovative.

To exchange the knowledge and experience, improvement of the data management in the WCE and WRC network

**Rys. 1. Koncepcja innowacyjnej platformy zarządzania wiedzą. Strzałki pokazują przepływy informacyjne w platformie.**



**Women's Resource Centre's, WRC –  
A key-tool for Women's active participation  
in Regional Development and Growth!  
BSR Round Table Conference, Stockholm,  
June 25, 2013**

Britt-Marie S Torstensson  
Winnet Sweden

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**Legislative Good Example Sweden State  
Finance of Winnet Centre of Excellences:**

According to a parliamentary agreement public funding is granted for financing activities across National, Regional and Local areas for WRCs (Integral part of Regional Policy for Growth since 2002)

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – is assigned by government to run Gender specific WRC programmes –this is grounded in Swedish Gender Equality Legislation

For the programming period 2010–2012 Government allocated €3.3 million each year basic funding and co-finance for ERDF and other EU programmes

Tasks WRC s, in Regional Development for Growth inc. Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Labour market; Accessibility; Transnational/Cross Border Co-operation & Rural Development

For this programming period 2013–2015, The Government is allocating 36 million per year to WRC for basic funding and co-finance for ERDF and other EU program projects

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**Women in Democracy support**

Winnet Sweden has financial support from the Swedish Government (The Ministry of Gender Equality) to be a Umbrella NGO organisation- non-profit for 120 WRCs, to be the driving force and to secure women's participation in Democracy and Regional Development and Growth in 21 regions, for 2013, 650 000 SEK

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**WRC Successfactors for Structural changes  
in Policy and actions**

Organisation and thematic focus which can differ in the Swedish regions

Keep the grass root level = bottom up – top down perspective.

Work on all three levels – individual- Organisation/group-structural.

Find support from strategically important persons – politicians, policy makers etc.

Form a network of regional and local WRCs

Make the work in WRC visible for others.

The need of joint knowledge and education

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**Mission and Purpose Women's  
Resource Centres**

- Increase the number of women participating in economic life on a national, regional and a local level
  - Create new permanent jobs by developing women's business and enterprise –encouraging increased production of goods and services
  - Increase women's influence within the labour market and society
  - To support more equal distribution of economic resources between women and men for gender equal Growth
- 

**Functions and approaches of  
Winnet Centre of Excellence**

- To empower women who seek support, they are not "taken care of" but rather get guidance towards self-help.
  - Direct services to women inc. training, mentoring, enterprise support, education, finance etc
  - To mediate contacts with women's networks (inc. Business & finance, enterprise authorities, international contacts, media etc)
  - Networking on different levels: national, local, regional and transnational to promote the combination of gender mainstreaming and positive actions
-

## **Quadruple Helix Partnership Plattform**

- Representation Academia, Policy and decision makers, Business and Civil Society WRC, national, regional and local and transnational level's to secure Womens participation in Regional Development for Economic Growth!
  - Partnership
  - Co-operation
  - Network
  - Thematic areas
  - Regional Innovation
  - Through: identified good practices from EU 27 MS, within the chosen themes, to be transferred
  - analysed good practises and elaborated action plans
  - Winnet Center of Excellence; Interactive Research & benchmarking reports as input to workshops
- 
- WRC s is actors in the Swedish National Policy & strategy for Regional Development & Growth (since 2002) in 21 Regions
  - Winnet Sweden, an umbrella organisation to secure womens participation in Development of the Swedish Society and democracy
  - Co-finance for ERDF, ESF, rural Development funds and other
  - WRC s an actor in the Swedish National /regional Action Plan for Gender Equal Regional Development & Growth, 2012–2014

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Result of the Internationalisation of the WRC – export of the Swedish model to be more then Swedish = A European Model (s) innovation system

### **WRC and transnational Projects**

Interreg III C project – W.IN.NET and before The ENREC 1997–1999)

FP 6 SSA project; how to increase women in business participation in FP 6 and 7 project`s

Position paper on ICT and new technology, INFISO-Media at the EU Commission

Interreg III B project – FEM

Nordic Conference 19 October, 2007

Meeting with EU Commissioner Hübner December, 2006 to discuss WRC s as an actor in Regional Development and Growth, result of FEM and W.IN.NET

Interreg IVC Capitalisation project – WINNET 8 2010–2011

OSCE Contacts and study visits 2010 and 3-4 March, Conference 2011 on how to create and establish WRCs

South Africa, Botswana, Chile, Australia, China Contacts

Seed finance project, in the Baltic Sea Region, 2013, to implement Winnet8 result, focus on BSR Quadruple Helix Partnership Platform, Gender & Innovation for Growth, WCE, 2014–2020

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