

Brief on LPW Initiative Group on Supporting Women Entrepreneurship in Ukraine (LPW IG SWE) January 2013- February 2014, Kyiv



Initiative by Ukrainian NGO "League of Professional Women" (LPW) www.lpw.org.ua lpw_network@i.ua

Prepared by leader of the LPW Initiative Dr. Olena Lazorenko lpw.network@gmail.com

Problem being addressed

The issue of «women economic empowerment» should be taken into account when considering plans and concepts of social & economic development, including policies to support of women-led SMEs. According to the European regional “**Women’s Economic Opportunity Index**” survey conducted by Economist Intelligence Unit, Ukraine was ranked 31rd (out of 34 countries) and placed between Albania and Serbia. So. High-motivated and entrepreneurial women are not too much involved in business activities. This fact does not only reports women discrimination, but also proves the lack of efficient strategy to use the economic potential. The “**SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries**” Study (OECD, 2012) reports that women’s entrepreneurship in Ukraine requires better policy, follow-up actions and more advocacies. LPW proposes advocacy activities to promote women’s entrepreneurship in Ukraine, some cases were presented during **Ukrainian Parliament Hearing on Gender Issues** (dated by 16 October 2013).



Photo1: After the Parliament Hearing in the lobby of the Verhovna Rada of Ukraine, Kyiv

Actions in the field of women’s entrepreneurship (WE) development in Ukraine

The kick-off Skype meeting of the **LPW Initiative Group on Supporting Women Entrepreneurship in Ukraine (LPW IG SWE)**. Web note alert: LPW Launched the Initiative Group on Supporting Women Entrepreneurship (LPW IG SWE) in Ukraine <http://lpw.org.ua/en/announces/?pid=622>. (January, 2013)
Facebook platform for LPW IG SWE - WE group was created in the **summer 2013**. Link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/189478497881158/>
About LPW’s social media groups main subjects, you can read on LPW Web <http://lpw.org.ua/ua/news/?pid=635>

Background WE activities there were:

*In 2011-2012 contribution to the **SME Policy Index. Eastern Partnership Countries (2011-2012)** OECD, European Union, European Training Foundation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Published by: OECD Publishing, 01 Nov 2012

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/press_corner/all_news/news/2013/2013_02_19_1_en.htm

Role: contributor (November, 2011), discussion participator (March, 2012)

*In 2010-2012 LPW conducted **field research and Analytical Paper, (2012) on Training Needs Analysis of Women Representatives of SME in Ukraine.**

Role: LPW is project implementer, Author: Dr. Olena Lazorenko, ordering by IFC (World Bank group).

*In November 2012 took part in the **ETF conference on “Towards Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Skills”** during the Global Entrepreneurship Week, Brussels <http://lpw.org.ua/en/news/?pid=618>

LPW IG SWE Key Activities of the first phase of 2013-2014

Established contacts with local, international organizations and donors; Dissemination of information about this initiative through interested parties (a) civil society sector, b) corporate sector, c) women-entrepreneurs, mainly SMEs in Ukraine, d) interested government bodies and international

organizations); Seeking financial sources and human resources (communication & fundraising officers as Pro Bono) for these activities.

For example,

In April 12, 2013 **participation of the LPW IG SWE representatives in the International Women Forum: "Women entrepreneurs: new driving force of Ukrainian economy?"** Kyiv, Ukraine



Photo2: Speech of Dr. Olena Lazorenko at "Women in Business" Photo 3. Anna, Olena and Olga at Women Forum

- April 19, 2013 in Kyiv - Networking Meeting of the Consultants and SMEs within the Initiative **"Women in Business" of the EBRD BAS Programme**
- Preparing Project Statement and Project Application on **"Women mentorship program in Ukraine"**. LPW is looking for donors and institutional partners for this program.
- October 16, 2013 **Ukrainian Parliament's Hearing** on Gender issues Dr. Olena Lazorenko shared LPW vision of key drivers for Women`s economic empowerment in Ukraine. See: <http://lpw.org.ua/en/news/?pid=640>
- November 20 , 2013 **within the framework of the 2013 Global Entrepreneurship Week** the League of Professional Women, KPMG Ukraine, ICC and METRO Ukraine **shared stories of Women Who Inspire** <http://lpw.org.ua/en/news/?pid=641>



Photos 4: During 2013 LPW Annual Meeting at office of the KPMG Ukraine, Kyiv

- **Report of 20.11.2013 LPW Annual Meeting** on Inspiring Women: equality for Entrepreneurship and Public Sphere in Ukraine in the framework of the Global Entrepreneurship Week http://lpw.org.ua/en/reports/11_2013/
- January 2014 Submission of papers by Dr. Olena Lazorenko on **"Women`s SMEs in Different National Contexts"** to the Ninth Hanseatic Conference "Innovative SMEs by Gender and Age Around the Mare Balticum" February 17-19, 2014, Hamburg by Hansea Parliament & the Baltic Sea Academy http://www.amazon.de/Innovative-SMEs-Gender-around-Balticum/dp/3735791190/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1395667409&sr=8-1&keywords=innovative+Smes+by+gender

Now we have opened the call to support LPW Initiative Group on Supporting Women Entrepreneurship in Ukraine (LPW IG SWE). We are open for different forms of SUPPORT from **women and men. Please, contact us via e-mail: lpw.network@gmail.com**