

**F.E.M.A.L.E.**  
**Fostering Self Entrepreneurship for Women in Adult Education**  
Socrates Grundtvig Learning Partnerships Programme

May 14 – 17, 2007  
Panevėžys, Lithuania

**Meeting Attendance List**

<b>PARTICIPANT'S NAME</b>	<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
Ausra Pipinyte	“Panevezys Business Advisory Centre”	Lithuania
Gianluca Milanese	Tk Formazione Srl	Italy
Michela Calabrese	Tk Formazione Srl	Italy
Maureen Lawton	ASEM - ASOCIACIÓN EMPRESA MUJER	Spain
Bárbara Montesión	ASEM - ASOCIACIÓN EMPRESA MUJER	Spain
Florian Hans	Deutsche Angestellten-Akademie, DAA Braunschweig	Germany
Satu Laitila	Fortbildningscentralen vid Åbo Akademi	Finland
Hanna Aanila	Fortbildningscentralen vid Åbo Akademi	Finland
Severine Bemka	Project 83	France

**Meeting Report**

**Monday, 14 May**

The transnational partners were welcomed to Panevėžys Business Consultancy Centre (PBCC) and presented with an outline of the activities to be carried out during the visit.

Aušra Pipinytė presented the activities of the PBCC.

Afterwards the partners attended a meeting with the governor of Panevėžys County Gema Umbrasienė. The governor explained the situation of women in employment and in politics. A debate followed focusing on the situation of the female in each country. The outcome of this comparison was that in all the countries in question women had difficult access to top management positions and faced the obstacle of reconciliation between family and work life.

In the afternoon Aušra Pipinytė of the PBCC presented the situation of female entrepreneurship in Lithuania. Among the EU states women from the Baltic States are most eager to become managers. In Lithuania, women managers account for more than 40 percent of the total number of managers in Lithuania. Lithuanian women entrepreneurs mainly develop their activities in the following fields: sewing, hairdresser's salons and the barber's, beauty salons, small restaurants and cafes, private

dental offices and private clinics, sports clubs etc. However, the key business players are men. The main reasons determining a lower level of women's participation in business can be summarized as follows: outdated stereotypes towards a woman's social role; difficulties to combine family and business; lack of self-confidence; fear of the risk; lack of specific knowledge necessary to run a business, etc.

All partners reported their project activities since the last meeting.

Later the partners were transferred to a local farmstead run by a woman entrepreneur, as an example of agrotourism in Lithuania. The business woman started the farmstead in 1997. She was one of the first to start an agrotourism business in Lithuania. In 10 years her business has gone from three rooms to 50 rooms in three buildings. She also provides conference and wedding services. Furthermore she was one of the founders of the rural tourism association of Lithuania.

The partners were invited to taste typical local products in the farmstead restaurant.

### **Tuesday, 15 May**

PBAC took the partners on a city tour to Vilnius accompanied by a professional guide.

On return to Panevėžys the partners were welcomed by the president of the Active Women organisation, Danute Kirščiūnienė. She presented the organisation and the wide range of regional and national activities. The organisation is one year old and its members are active in different political parties.

The partners intermingled with the members of the organisation over tea and cakes.

### **Wednesday, 16 May**

Project partners participated in the conference "Women's Roles: Stereotypes and Perspectives". The event was aimed at analysing the particular obstacles that prevent women from fully participating in business and social life. The partners made presentations on women entrepreneurship in their countries.

Conference presentations:

- "Career Crossroad", Dalia Cymbaliuk, Secretary General, Lithuanian Association of Adult Education;
- "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men", Janina Gaidžiūnaitė, Lecturer, Panevėžys College;
- "Women in the Job Market", Audronė Biguzienė, Deputy Director, Panevėžys Labour Exchange;
- "Women's activities in Panevezys and Lithuania", Laima Jonkuvienė, the President of Panevėžys Soroptimist Club;
- "Women in Politics and Society", Danute Kriščiūnienė, the President of „Active Women“ Club;
- "Feminine Entrepreneurship in Italy", Michela Calabrese, Tk Training Limited;
- "Feminine Entrepreneurship in Finland", Satu Laitila, Åbo Akademi;
- "Feminine Entrepreneurship in Spain", Maureen B. Lawton, ASEM;
- "Feminine Entrepreneurship in France", Severine Bemka, ProGet 83;
- "Feminine Entrepreneurship in Germany", Florian Hans, Deutsche Angestellten-Akademie.

In the afternoon the time was dedicated to the places of interest within the city of Panevėžys. PBCC kindly provided the group with a guide for the visit of Panevėžys.

### **Thursday, 17 May**

PBCC and the partners were welcomed by Lithuanian Labour Market Training Authority in Panevėžys. The director Gražina Aperavičienė presented the main activities of the centre. The target groups are convicts (people in danger of social exclusion), students and unemployed.

The centre provides career guidance, psychological counselling to the target groups and also runs a job club. The LLMTA, which exists in major cities in Lithuania, was founded and is funded by the ministry of social security and labour of the Republic of Lithuania. Special projects are also funded by the European Social Fund.

During the final meeting the project was evaluated and ideas were put forward for further work.