



Photo: Committee of the Regions, rue Belliard, 101 B-Brussels

## **Report from the finishing Conference of the Interreg III C –project WINNET at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels November 21-22 2005.**

After more than two years of participative cooperation, the seventeen transnational partners of the Interreg III G North Zone project W.IN.NET ( Women in Net) concluded their activities at a conference in Brussels. Winnet has gathered Women´s Resource Centres ( WRCs) from all over Europe around on main purpose: to create a European network of resource centres, thus contributing with their joint actions and integrated competencies, at regional, national and international level, to the mainstreaming of gender equality and the improvement of the female population´s life conditions.

The aims of the conference were to present and share the main achievements of the project in the benchmarking of WRCs and to launch the European WRCs´network and its internet platform. Further to exchange views with the European Institutions, national Authorities, other Networks from the EU25 and beyond on the future of the European gender policy and mainstreaming strategies and tools.

About 150 women participated at the Conference, coming from Greece and Spain in the south to Sweden and Finland in the north. The most active partners in the Winnet have been Sweden ( Lead part) and Italy ( 9 partners).

### **Work-shops**

During the first day the work-shops dealt with issues around benchmarking and networking at local, national and transnational level. Experiences of how to support women entrepreneurs and to participate in local development policies.

In this work-shop Lisbeth Holmquist-Arbrandt was invited to give a report of our FEM-project and the plans of wp1.

During the second day the results in the Winnet-project was summed up. The title was Networking and Mainstreaming Gender: Women´s Resource Centres in Europe towards 2007-2013. Modelling and quality indicators were discussed and the future network was decided. Among the speakers this day was representatives of the EU-commission. This woman invited the new European Association of resource centres to be a partner in the work to improve women´s issues and gender equality in Europe.

## **Winnet EU25 – the European Association of WRCs**

After the conference has finished at Tuesday afternoon representatives of every participating country come to a starting meeting for the European Association . 40 women wanted to participate, the room was too small and only one representative of every country could participate. The result of the meeting was a committee of 10 Winnet –partners. This committee will during the spring 2006 work for the establishment of the Winnet EU25. The date to start will be 12/6 2006 in Brussels. The overall response of this work has Britt-Marie Torstensson, Saga resource centre. She is the chairman of the board of NRC ( The Swedish National Federation of Resource centres) and has been the leader of the Winnet-project.

You can reach her at [britt-marie.torstensson@saga.se](mailto:britt-marie.torstensson@saga.se) . The new association will have the web-site [www.women.eu.com](http://www.women.eu.com) .

Annexes are the final documents from Brussels.

*Lisbeth Holmquist-Arbrandt*