



**Foundation for
Women Entrepreneurs (Malta)**

ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

VAT No: MT-1718-7710

The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta) is an independent non-profit organisation, which has been set up for the promotion of opportunities, awareness building, training and research in the field of Women Entrepreneurs and other gender issues.

The foundation aims at establishing entrepreneurship as a culture and way of life for women – not only business owners, but workers, mothers and citizens on a national, European and Mediterranean level; The foundation believes in promoting initiatives that foster the creation of women entrepreneurial networks that are accessible by the majority of women this is seen as an overarching structure for creating awareness of impact that women entrepreneurs can have on the national and regional economy, and helping prospective entrepreneurs to develop themselves.

The foundation also supports research and training infrastructures in various areas including but not limited to the following fields: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, languages, business management and other fields of knowledge; this will lead to assessing, evaluating and auditing female targeted initiatives and their effectiveness within a given context; The foundation aims and believes in enhancing and networking with similar organisations and/or institutions and/or non governmental organisations in Europe and North Africa with the aim of establishing collaborative initiatives in order to Urgently and constantly address the issue of the so-called “gender inequalities” and assist communities to bridge that gap;

Hence the foundation has taken upon itself a commitment to actively promoting the review, introduction and implementation of women policies in Europe, whether public or private, and for the adoption of better, affordable, accessible and more professional procedures and standards in all walks of life;

The foundation also offers the promotion of guidance and training assistance to people involved in the provision of women-targeted services and also to members of their families in case of negative, traumatic or other similar effects arising out events connected to the performance of their duties.

The president of the organisation is Angele Giuliano and the Foundation became operational from December 2001 whilst the notarial deed was signed on October, 2002.

Annual Report – 2009

The board members of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs meet once a month to monitor the progress of the foundation; usually this takes place the last Friday of each month.

Grundtvig Inservice training Courses - LLP/MT/TD/30/2009

Promoting the Culture of Entrepreneurship

This course covers different topics related to Entrepreneurship and the making of this as a way of life for people. It delves into critical thinking and problem solving, as well as Human Resource Development with a matrix perspective taking into account the leadership styles primarily adopted by managers particularly those most successful in people management cross referencing them with motivational theories at work. This course will help facilitators to find out how best to promote start-ups and help people kick off into the business world.

Each participant taking part in this course is required to fill a pre-course form in order to assess the level of each participant beforehand and the training targeted accordingly.

The dates of the courses in 2009 are as follows:

1st Session: 16/02/2009 - 20/02/2009

2nd Session: 27/07/2009 - 31/07/2009

3rd Session: 25/10/2009 - 31/10/2009

The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (FWE) is involved in the following EU Funded Projects:

Entrepreneurial competences of teachers - ECT



The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta) is the local partner in a project entitled “Entrepreneurial competences of teachers – ECT” under the Call for

Proposals 2008 – (EAC/30/2007) Sub-Programme: Grundtvig, reference number: 141802-LLP-2008-CZ-GRUNDTVIG-GMP.

The main objective of the project is the acquisition of entrepreneurial competences (competences related to entrepreneurship – social competences, communication, marketing and others) and skills and exchange of experience can change the attitude of teachers, trainers, improve the quality of education as a whole and result in increasing number of people motivated to become an entrepreneur.

The project is aimed at:

- strengthening adults' self-confidence and promoting their personal fulfilment by developing their cultural awareness and capacity for creative expression
- sharing knowledge and disseminating good practice on adult learning opportunities in Europe;
- strengthening cooperation between adult education providers, NGOs, civil society, social partners and decision-makers at local, regional, national and European levels.

The key products of the project will meet the needs of this specific target group (adult education staff – teachers, trainers, lecturers, mentors). Structure of the programme and practical methods of work will enable participants to gain concrete experience and to get new insights and ideas for their own professional approach. The consortium of the project is made up of organisations from the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Norway and Malta. The duration of the project is from 01/10/2008 - 30/09/2010.

- Maryrose Francica and Kerry Freeman representing the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs attended the partners' meeting of the ECT project in Kilmarnock, Scotland from the 26th April to the 1st May, 2009.

WOMEN'S MEDIA IN THE EUROMED

The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta) is the local partner in a European funded project under the EuropeAid Public awareness and education for development in Europe programme, reference:

EuropeAid/127765/C/ACT/Multi entitled 'Women's Media in the Euromed'. The coordinators of the project are the Local Authority of Pescara, Italy, IRIS – Provincia di Pescara and the partners are Groupement Interrégional pour l'Action et l'Information des Femmes (GRAIF) from France, the Safadi Foundation from Lebanon, Association Aini Bennai Editions from Morocco and the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta) is the Maltese partner.

'Women's Media in the Euromed', in accordance to the Roadmap for equality between women and men 2006-2010 directives, the partnership agrees on the urgency of spreading information and raising public awareness on gender issues and conflicts, with a particular focus on the Southern Mediterranean region. The media, then, should play an active role to that purpose. The project will spread unbiased information through research and audiovisual products, created by a selected group of young women coming from Southern Mediterranean countries, and unfortunately used to discriminations and conflicts. Indeed, the project intends to increase audiovisual skills and let the women themselves be able to raise public awareness on gender equality as well as on other human rights issues.

The project, then, intends to build the capacities of young women in the use of ICT and production of audiovisual and visual communications materials towards the creation of a sustainable Women Media Agency in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This action has the final outcome of strengthening the active participation of Mediterranean women in the world of media and communications, thereby reinforcing their influence on the production of perceptions, with the aim of cultivating a gender-sensitive approach in the Media.

The duration of the project is 36 months and the Kick off meeting was held in Rome, Italy in October, 2009. Angele Giuliano and Kerry Freeman attended on behalf of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs.

2/02/2009 - Angele Giuliano interviewed on Dot EU

The president of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs, Angele Giuliano was interviewed by Mr. Keith Demicoli regarding the work that the foundation is doing especially relating to the foundation's work in the field of EU Funds. This interview was shown on the programme entitled "Dot.EU".

14/02/2009 – MUESAC Conference at SAS Radisson Hotel

Angele Giuliano and Maryrose Francica attended a half day conference at the SAS Radisson Hotel organised by the Parliamentary Secretariat for consultation and public information, MUESAC and MCESD for voluntary organisations. The conference started with a keynote speech by the Hon. Dr. Chris Said who spoke about the possibilities of social dialogue that exist in Malta and also the setting up of a Commissioner for voluntary organisations. Dr. Said stressed the importance of voluntary organisations and the sterling work they are doing within the diverse sectors of the Maltese society.

17/02/2009 – Foreign business studies teachers visit to MCAST and Margaret Mortimer Junior Lyceum.

Whilst some business studies/entrepreneurship teachers were participating in the in-service training courses entitled “Promoting the Culture of Entrepreneurship”, Maryrose Francica organised a visit to the Institute of Business and Commerce within MCAST and a visit to Margaret Mortimer Junior whereby the foreign teachers had the opportunity to meet with their Maltese counterparts and share their experiences and best practices.

24/02/2009 – Interview on RTK radio.

Mr. Walter Sultana invited Maryrose Francica, the executive coordinator of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs to be interviewed on RTK radio during the programme produced by MUESAC, 'L-Unjoni Ewropea u Int. The interview focused mostly on projects done by the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs that were co-funded by the European Commission.

27/03/2009 – Hosting a delegation from Education Department.

The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs hosted a delegation from the Education department to familiarize themselves with the goals and objectives of the Foundation. After a tour of the premises and introductions, Maryrose Francica gave a power point presentation depicting the work that the Foundation does and the importance of teaching entrepreneurship to young students. After the presentation there was a time for Q & A's from which a lively discussion ensued.

07/04/2009 – Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs attends MCWO meeting.

Maryrose Francica on behalf of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs attended the meeting of The Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations of which the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs is a founder member and active on the MCWO committee.

23/04/2009 – Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs attend the MCWO AGM.

Angele Giuliano and Maryrose Francica attended the annual general meeting of the Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations which was held on Thursday, 23rd April, 2009. The AGM was chaired by Anna Borg, Chair person of MCWO.

11/05/2009 - Czech Republic Teachers hosted at F.W.E

The Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs hosted five business studies teachers from the Czech Republic for a three day entrepreneurship seminar where apart from lectures they had visits to the University of Malta, Malta Enterprise and Kordin Business Incubation Centre (KBIC).

06-14/05/2009 – F.W.E President represents Malta in SME week in Brussels

The president of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs, Angele Giuliano was chosen as the face of Maltese SMEs in the first European SME week held in Brussels in May 2009. Angele has been selected as one of the 33 European entrepreneurs that have been featured on the European successful entrepreneurs.

(http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week-2009/documents/entr_sme09_the_secret_of_success_-_tips_from_european_entrepreneurs_en.pdf).

The aim is to promote entrepreneurship across Europe and to inform entrepreneurs about support available for them at European, national and local level. It allows SMEs to discover an array of information, advice, support and ideas to help them develop their activities. During her stay, Angele attended the launch for the first SME week where she had bi-lateral talks and meetings with Commissioner Verheugen, Commissioner Neelie Kroes and SME Envoy Francoise Le Bail.

14/05/2009 – F.W.E. attends National Conference: Small Enterprise...big ideas

Maryrose Francica attended the National Conference “Small Enterprise...big ideas” on behalf of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs. This was held at the Excelsior Hotel, Floriana as part of the first European SME Week, which took place from 6 to 14 May 2009. The objective of the SME week was to promote entrepreneurship and inform entrepreneurs about support available for them at European, national and local level.

18/05/2009 – F.W.E. hosts a delegation of female journalists from Russia.

A delegation of Russian female journalists who were on study visit to Malta as guests of the Malta Confederation of Women’s Organisation (MCWO) were hosted for a day at the premises of the foundation, whereby they were greeted by the President, Angele Giuliano and afterwards, Maryrose Francica gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of the Foundation for Women

Entrepreneurs with the help of an interpreter. Although the language barrier was a little of problem, the meeting was conducted well and there were a lot of queries from the Russian ladies and promised to keep in touch so that we will be able to discuss further collaboration.

11/06/2009 – F.W.E attends info session on the EU funded programme ENPI

Maryrose Francica on behalf of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs attended the info session organised by the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) regarding the EU funded programme ENPI. ENPI is short for 'European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument'. It is the financial instrument which supports the ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) through concrete assistance actions. The ENP is a broad political strategy which has as the ambitious objective of strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of Europe's neighbourhood in order to avoid any dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its direct neighbours. This info session was held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

15/06/2009 - Challenges for equality between women and men in a time of change

Maryrose Francica attended a two day meeting held at Charlemagne Building, Brussels organised by the Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities which addressed the issue of gender equality in a time of economic crisis during. The two-day conference brought together representatives from the European institutions, notably Vice-President Wallström and Commissioner Špidla; representatives from national governments and equality bodies, European social partners and civil society to identify future priorities in the field of gender equality. The Conference was chaired by Belinda Pyke, the director of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, whilst Michael Kocab, the Minister for Human Rights and Minorities and Commissioner Vladimir Spidla both made opening speeches.

21/09/2009 – Business Platform for Multilingualism meeting in Brussels

Maryrose Francica attended the plenary of the Business Platform for Multilingualism of which the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs is a member. The meeting took place at the Borchette in Brussels. Its main objective is to promote a permanent dialogue between the Commission and civil society on the different aspects of the multilingualism policy. Among the members of the platform are representatives from the education and culture sectors and the media and other civil society organisations.

"The importance of languages in the pursuit of social cohesion and overcoming barriers to integration cannot be overstated", said Commissioner Leonard Orban at the launch of the platform.

The Civil Society Platform to promote Multilingualism is a forum for the exchange of best practices for the media, cultural organisations and those involved in non-formal and informal education. The aim is to encourage public debate on how best to promote the wider use of different languages. Priority target groups of the platform's work are school dropouts, people in vocational education and training, senior citizens as well as immigrants.

The platform will also develop proposals to be examined by national governments as part of their co-operation on multilingualism issues in the fields of education and training

24/09/2009 – Final Conference of Keylinks Project in Brussels

Whilst in Brussels, Maryrose Francica also attended the final conference of the Keylinks Project which was held at the Hotel Bloom in Brussels. The project deals with questions related to the topic EU-funded projects. The objective of the project is to improve conditions for increasing quality of education of managers of EU funded projects by unification of competences and educational standards in EU. The project addresses the incoherent system of education for people involved in different phases of a project life cycle (programming, analyses, planning, implementation and evaluation) of EU funded projects.

21-25/09/2009 – F.W.E. organises a 'Business Games' week

After the success of the Czech's teacher's seminar it was decided that the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs hosts a group of eight Czech students and pair them with eight Maltese students from the MCAST business where by through Business games they would learn more about entrepreneurship. The Czech students were made up of 5 girls and 3 boys and two pedagogical trainers, and the language used was English. The Maltese students and trainers were awarded certificates and even prizes for coming up with an innovative business idea. It was a great opportunity for the Maltese students to take part in this event to brainstorm and actually come up with innovative business ideas. This event took place at the Topaz Hotel in Bugibba where the Czech students were being accommodated.

02/12/2009 – Workshop organised by EUPA.

Maryrose Francica and Kerry Freeman attended a workshop organised the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) regarding Grundtvig Workshops which are one of several new actions launched in 2009 under the Grundtvig Programme. The objective of this action is to enable adult learners to participate in Workshops (learning events and seminars) taking place in another European country participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme. This is a completely new form of mobility offered to adult learners through the Lifelong Learning Programme. Grundtvig Workshops bring together individuals or small groups of learners from several countries for an innovative multinational learning experience relevant for their personal development and learning needs.

Angele GIULIANO,
President