

European Region Entrepreneurship Connection EFEB Network

NEWSLETTER

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Research results

In the framework of the project all partners conducted research on current situation on women entrepreneurship in their countries.

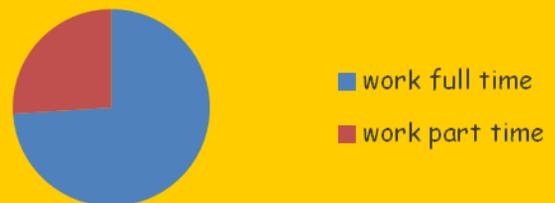
They sent questionnaires to the experts and project target groups to know their opinion and needs.

In current Newsletter we will present results from Latvia.

LATVIA

In Latvia, around 40% of all entrepreneurs are women compared to 31% in the EU-28. The majority of these women entrepreneurs (69%) are solo entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs constitute about 8% of the women in the active labour force (entrepreneurship rate). This is lower than the EU-28 average entrepreneurship rate (10%). The proportion of men entrepreneurs in the active labour force of Latvia (13%) was also lower than the EU-28 average.

Women entrepreneurs



Women entrepreneurs in Latvia work full-time. In 2012, about 26% of women entrepreneurs worked part-time in their enterprise and this percentage is lower than the EU-28 average (30%). In 2012, the highest proportions of women entrepreneurs in the total number of entrepreneurs in a sector were in the sector groups, other service activities, human health and social work activities, education, and professional, scientific and technical activities. The lowest proportions were in the sector groups of construction and transportation and storage. Compared to the EU-28 proportion, the percentages are higher in almost all sector groups.

Women entrepreneurs in Latvia are slightly older than men entrepreneurs. In 2012, the proportion of women entrepreneurs in the age group 25-49 years was lower than men entrepreneurs, and the proportion in the group of 50-64 years was slightly higher.

The average education level of women entrepreneurs is higher than that of men entrepreneurs. Compared to the total EU, women entrepreneurs in Latvia also have a higher education level.

In 2012, the average working week for women entrepreneurs in Latvia was 36 hours which corresponds to the EU-28 data. Part-time women entrepreneurs worked on average 20 hours, which is longer than the part-time women entrepreneurs in the EU-28 (18 hours).

Also, the mean net income of women entrepreneurs (€6,310) was higher than that of men entrepreneurs (€6,144) in Latvia. Compared to women entrepreneurs in EU-28, the income of the Latvian women entrepreneurs is lower.

MEET A PARTNER

PARTNER 3 – Cluster Experts Baltic Sea Region (CE BSR), Latvia



The CE BSR was established in 2010 in Latvia by PhD students working on the business cluster research in different areas with an idea to get together cluster experts and practitioners of the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

The objective of the CE BSR is to promote the development of competitive clusters, innovation and competitiveness of enterprises (SMEs), as well as capacity of experts through education, research and entrepreneurship. Its special focus is on the promotion of women entrepreneurship through CE BSR networks and clusters.

CE BSR tasks

1. Creation of the cluster expert forum to exchange information and experiences, to find new contacts and partners, and to promote new initiatives
2. Promotion of international and cross-border cooperation between organisations and experts
3. Participation in national, international and cross-border projects and initiatives
4. Facilitation of cluster development and improvement of cluster competitiveness through consulting
5. Organisation of education, research, training and cluster monitoring activities
6. Collection and dissemination of cluster expertise and related resources
7. Attraction of financial resources for improving cluster expertise capacity and implementing the main objective of the foundation

Main areas of expertise and activities of CE BRS are:

1. Organisation of education, research, training and cluster monitoring activities
2. Collection and dissemination of innovation and cluster expertise, best business practices and related resources
3. Providing expertise on SME policies, internationalization, labor market and mobility issues, cluster development strategies, creative industries, regional development, development of the women entrepreneurship, promotion of employment and services in rural areas, etc.

CE BSR Implemented Projects

1. Studies on the Compilation of SME policy measures and assessment of the SBA implementation within the EU SME Performance Reviews 2010-2011 and 2011-2012; assessment of internationalization of companies and implementation of the bankruptcy policies (second chance);
2. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs contact point in Latvia, 2012-2014;
3. LdV project "Transfer of Best-Practice & Innovation in CAD for Logistics Stakeholders (LogiCAD)";
4. ESF project "QuAT- Qualification for good jobs in micro and small tourism enterprises".

EFEB TEAM MEMBERS AT CE BSR

VERA
Komarova

Researcher



Vera is the Chairperson of the CEBSR actively participating in cluster related activities and promotion of entrepreneurship, especially focusing on the role of woman business. She is also Researcher in the field of regional economics and lectures at the Daugavpils University of Latvia. Vera has a world-wide research experience on economic clusters and territorial development. She works in English, Russian and Latvian languages scientific space.

ZANE
Zeibote

Expert

Founder and a member of CE BSR Board, during the last 5 years worked with various EU Interreg, Erasmus+ and Horizon-2020 projects focusing on labor market integration, labor mobility, sustainable building, promotion of services in rural areas, promotion of clusters and business networking, etc.



Lecturing for the University of Latvia and University College of Economics and Culture. Experience in cooperating with international women networks, such as the Council of the Women World Leaders Forum and others.

ILVA
Rudusa

Financial Manager



Ilva is the Financial Manager for the CE BSR. She is doing her PhD at the Latvian University of Agriculture. Ilva holds the Master degree in Economics of the Latvia University of Agriculture. She has previous work experience as lecturer at the Latvia University of Agriculture and as accountant at the Ltd "TTO Group". Main areas of expertise: econometrics, mathematical statistics and enterprise resource planning systems.

JANIS
Balodis

Project Manager

Janis holds the Master degree in Economics from the University of Latvia. He worked for the Prime Minister of Latvia (1989-1991) as the Advisor on Economic Affairs and was the President of the Latvian Exportcredit JSC (2003-2006). Since 1992 he works as an entrepreneur and freelancer. Janis has experience in real estate development, project management and consultancy related to business development. Being the only man in the EFEB project team of CE BSR, Janis view on the role of women in business has a particular importance giving us an opportunity to have an opinion from the aspect of man's ruled business world.

ABOUT RIGA

Riga

Riga, the capital of Latvia, is the pearl both of Latvia and the whole of the Baltics. Riga is included in the **UNESCO** World Cultural and Natural Heritage list. It is located in the central part of the country, on the south coast of the Gulf of Riga, at the mouth of Latvia's largest river, the Daugava.

Riga is home for nearly 700,000 inhabitants and is the largest city in the Baltic States.

Riga is the Culture Capital of the Baltics where you'll find a dynamic cultural life. The [Latvian National Opera and Ballet](#) gathers together artists from all around the world. Concert halls regularly offer classical and popular music concerts. Exhibition halls present works by internationally-known classical and contemporary artists. Riga's cultural life is generous in its various manifestations. Riga is hosts the largest airport of the Baltic States - **Riga International Airport**. Riga has the largest number of free WiFi spots per square kilometre and per head of the population in Europe, which is why Riga became the European capital of free WiFi in the summer of 2014. The city has three *Lattelecom* free WiFi points per square kilometre. Free wireless internet can also be accessed in most hotels, cafes and taxis.



Riga is also known as the pearl of architecture which is beautiful and diverse. A heritage that dates back eight hundred years in terms of its Gothic churches which were built by Riga's very founders, plus the medieval buildings of the [Old Town](#), exquisite Art Nouveau structures, and many wooden buildings make Riga a true architectural pearl. A walk along the streets of Riga will be an exciting adventure for every visitor to Riga.



EUROPEAN REGION ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONNECTION - EFEB NETWORK

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