

"Women in Science, Innovation and Technology in the Digital Age" Budapest, 2011.03.06-08

Joint High-level Conference organized by the Hungarian EU Presidency and the European Commission DG INFSO

## Report

WiN Hungary were representing WiN Europe on this conference. Goal of being there was to establish better connection with different female European scientific and gender concerned organisations, make them aware of WiN Europe existence as a nearly 20 years old movement of female professionals from one of the high-tech technology such as nuclear.



Conference where organised to mark the 100th Anniversary of the International Woman's Day and where aiming to have a special chance to look on the female talent in the Digital Age and the future.

Mr. J. Palinkas, the President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in his welcoming speech acknowledged that world of Science is changing and more and more women coming to work in it. Mr. Z. Csefalvi, Minister of State for National Economy in Hungary presented the statistics on this matter. Madame Neelie Kroes, EU Commissioner for the Digital Agenda in her opening address where encouraging women to choose career in high technologies because industries and world economy needs female talent and power to be able to get over recent challenges ahead. This was political speech, but very much feminine and motivational.

Dalia Gribauskaite, President of Lithuania, wished success to conference via video call from Vilnius. She informed us about upcoming meeting of world female leaders on gender issues, that will be hosted in Vilnius on June 20 this year.



Maria Elzbieta Orlowska, Polish Secretary of State of Ministry of Science and Higher Education underlined in her keynote speech, that if we manage to get more women in Parliaments across Europe the politics will become more civilized and this is very important goal for women that need not to be left from the agenda of the meeting.

Edit Herczog, Member of EU Parliament and the Board of Governors of the European Internet Foundation in her keynote speech mentioned that it is essential for all female professional organizations to keep up their knowledge spreading work through showing lives and careers of famous and successful women, like Marie Curie and many others less well known role model women in sciences and technologies.



WiN Europe and WiN Hungary was given possibility to exhibit and present our leaflets, posters, etc. in the lobby of one of the conference rooms. It was not the proper booth, but table. Other disadvantage was that we weren't in the main room of exhibition like sponsors or strategic partners.



Despite of all this we managed to be very busy during conference and established connections with different female and male organisations , scientific and gorvenmentional us well. People were genuinely interested in what WiN movement does, pleasantly surprised with our activities and willing learn from us and to cooperate with us on possible joined EU and other projects in the future.

( But this was before Fukushima and we have to adjust our everything to this tragedy after it finally finished, lessons learnt, strategies and future of industry finalised, fight with greens won, etc.)





On this conference we heard many familiar ideas, but there were some new for me thoughts that WiN can/should embrace in our future work, like that a short campaigns to attract young females to technical careers does not work as effective as mentoring or/and role model projects.

Also it was surprising experience for me to hear and see, that big well known international IT companies, like this



not only sponsoring such a conference about gender equality issues in technology, but according to their presentations and PR materials, leaflets, etc. their companies business strategies is based on key role of female work force they need to be able to make it in the ever-changing financial and other vice world of ours. I'm sure WiN can utilise this in our industry.

Because this was female gathering we had unique, unusual for just professional meetings very much feminine part of program: winners of the European Drawing Contest for Gils were awarded their prices by Madame Neelie Kroes EU Commisioner on Digital Agenda, who herself great role model for lot of women.





In whole, I think it was worth to be there and it will be good for WiN Europe to go and be there next year in Norway to. May be then, if we start preparations in time they will ask us not only to exhibit but ask for speech/presentation. I guess WiN Sweden and WiN Finland won't have problems with this.

And another lesson I've learnt from my participation in the conference:

Due to our WiN Europe exhibition not centrally positioned place, we couldn't be present in very interesting sessions and participate in debates which could've provide us with even more effective action on introducing the WiN Europe to participants. It should be taken into account on our next engagements on such occasions.





However, by pure luck we managed to "make up" for this disadvantage on big conference photo: WIN standing just next to Madam Neelie Kroes and her Hungarian counterparts!



Members of WiN Hungary Budapest Chapter Dr. Katalin Radnoti ( she is the only one from Hungarian female Science world among us yet and Vice- President of WiN Hungary ) and Ms. Natasa Bakacs, Nuclear Engineer with more than 30 years of experience in building nuclear power plants, where helping in all the work. Katalin Gyarmathy, WiN Hungary Secretary and civil engineer from Paks NPP, who is there from plant construction time and still working on site, prepared everything we needed to be properly equipped for such a task from print-outs to WiN Hungary banners and our branded gadgets was huge help. I have to say, that our branded things where worth every penny we spent on them, thanks to continuous efforts of our other Vice-President, Ms. Ibolya Egner from Paks.

Same apply to our Hungarian-adopted Nuclear Comic Book : we can't bring enough copies of it ever!



Summed-up by Ludmilla G. Kiss Zoltanne

London, 2011.03.31.