

**Gender Mainstreaming in the
Structural Funds - Brussels, 13
February 2012**

**Main results from the Interreg IVC
Capitalisation project Winnet 8, Good
Practice Guide and Policy Innovation &
Policies**

*Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson,
Winnet8, Winnet Sweden*

Winnet 8 was initiated and led by Sweden and specifically the priorities are **to address the challenges of:**

Low employment rates among women

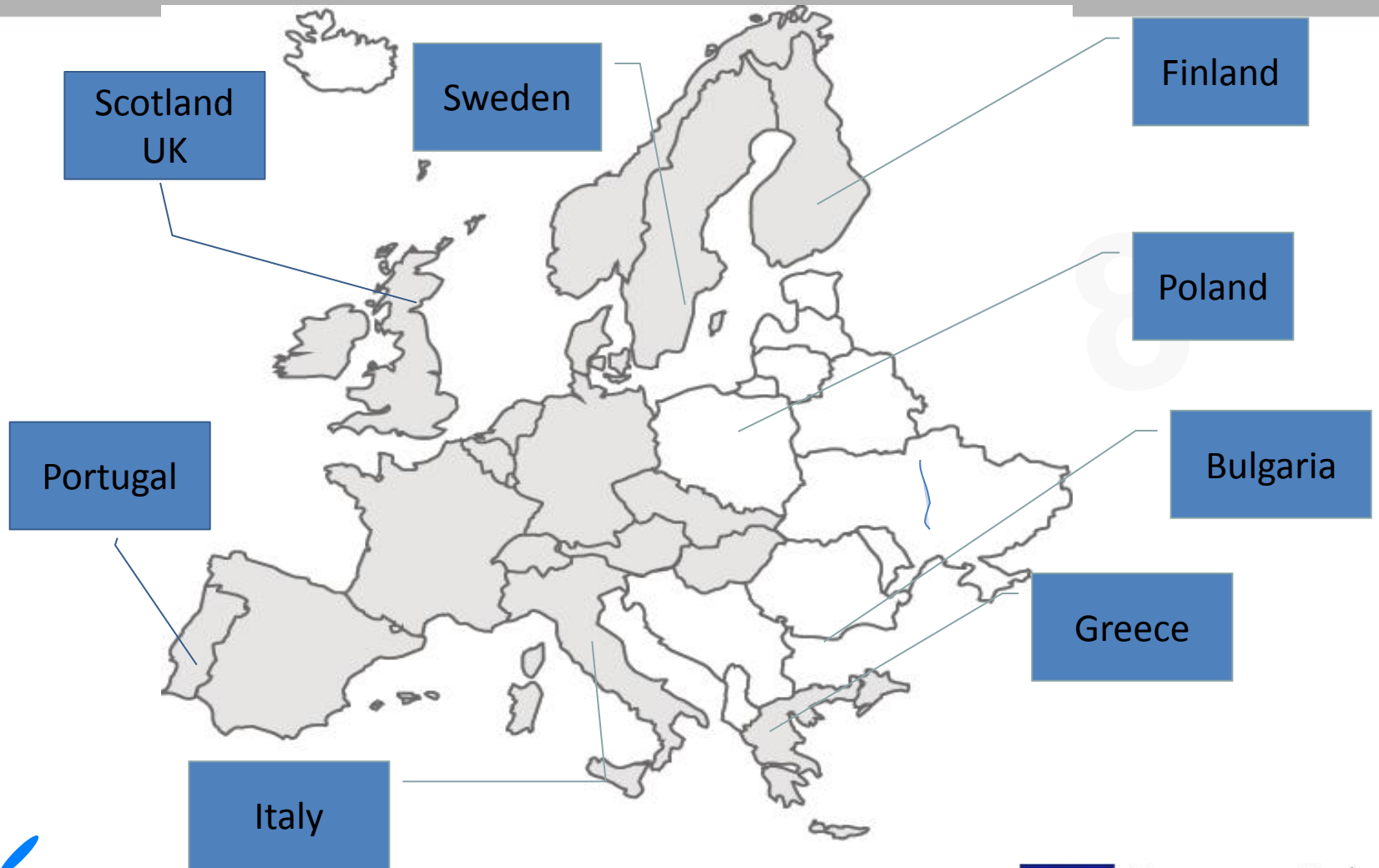
Segregated labour markets

Lack of women in entrepreneurship

Lack of women in innovation and technology



Jan 2010 - Dec 2011



Winnet 8 Overarching Aims

- Increase labour market participation of women /sectors and address occupational segregation
- Exchange experiences of policy and transfer good practice across Winnet 8 group into EU mainstream funding programmes
- Increase Women's Resource Centre models across partner regions focusing on labour market, entrepreneurship, innovation, ICT and non traditional employment opportunities

- Increase the number of women participating in economic life on a national, regional and a local level
- Create new permanent jobs by developing women's business and enterprise –encouraging increased production of goods and services
- Increase women's influence within the labour market and society
- To support more equal distribution of economic resources between women and men for gender equal growth

- **To empower women** who seek support, they are *not* “**taken care of**” but rather get guidance towards self-help.
- **Direct services** to women inc. training, mentoring, enterprise support, education, finance etc
- **To mediate contacts with women’s networks** (inc. Business & finance, enterprise authorities, international contacts, media etc)
- **Networking on different levels:** local, regional and trans-national to promote the combination of gender mainstreaming and positive actions

Multi Actor Groups (MAGs)

8 countries

9 NUTS 2 regions

Representation Academia, Policy makers, Business and Civil Society , WRC

- ✓ analysed regional conditions, identified obstacles and potentials
- ✓ identified good practices from other member countries, within the chosen themes, to be transferred
- ✓ analysed good practises and elaborated action plans
- ✓ Study visits, one outgoing and one hosting per region during September - November 2010
- ✓ Research & benchmarking reports as input to workshops

• Winnet 8 activities

- Study visit program 2010
- 2 thematic workshops, in Italy, December, 2010
- Research workshop in Finland, March 2011
- Consultation process & analyse during spring 2011
- 9 Regional Round Tables, April- June 2011
- 4 European Round Tables, May- August 2012
- Dissemination Seminars in all Winnet 8 regions/ countries
- Presentation in DG, Regio, EU Commission, HLG, 18 March, 2011
- Mini hearing in the European Parliament, Regional Committee, 12th of April



WRC, Innovation & Practices, for smart , Inclusive and Sustainable Growth



1. INTRODUCTION

2. WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRES AND MOBILISATION
3. HORIZONTAL OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION
4. INNOVATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
5. LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

REFERENCES

Practices
Literature
Partners

Theme: Women's employment and entrepreneurship (Integrated Interventions)

Aim and objective:

- Support women through personal and group training to improve women's professional skills to enter or re-enter the labour market,
- linked into wider regional and national training and entrepreneurial opportunities;
- provide additional funds for job and business creation where required.

Outcomes:

Delivered in an outreach capacity via antennae and achieves the following results:

351 Women received support

143 women into employment

63 women set-up a business

7 women's rural co-ops received business development support inc. business plans

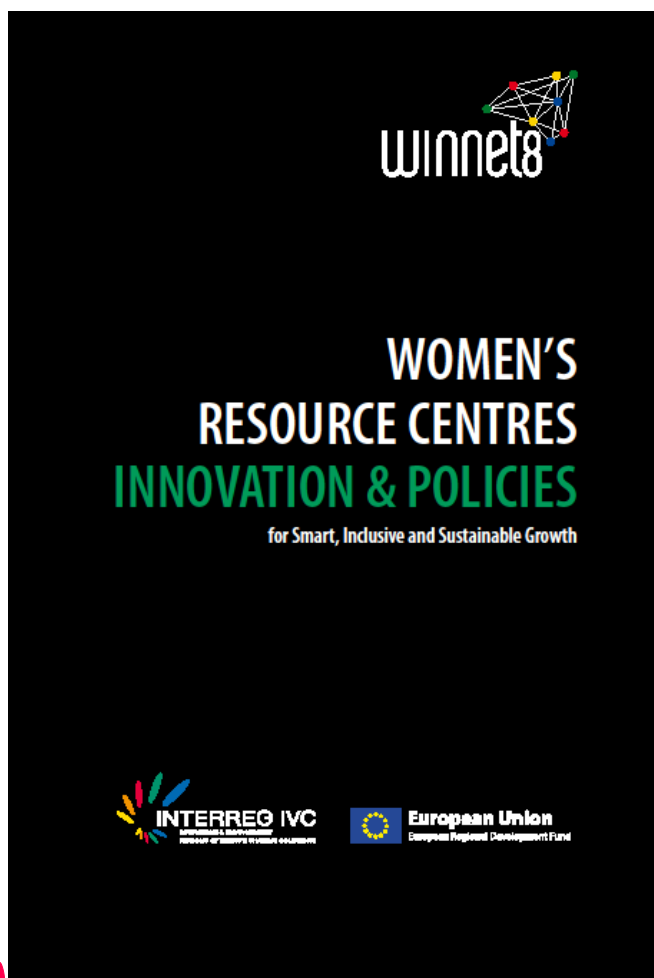
State Finance of Swedish WRCs:

According to a parliamentary agreement public funding is granted for financing activities across National, Regional and Local areas for WRCs (Integral part of Regional Policy for Growth since 2002)

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – is assigned by government to run Gender specific WRC programmes –this is grounded in Swedish Gender Equality Legislation

For this programming period 2010-2012 Government allocated €3.3 million each year basic funding and co-finance for ERDF and other EU programmes

Tasks WRC s, in Regional Development for Growth inc. Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Labour market; Accessibility; Transnational/Cross Border Co-operation & Rural Development



1. INTRODUCTION
2. POLICIES FOR SMART AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH
3. WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRES
4. ROUND TABLES AND CONSULTATIONS
5. CHALLENGING PATTERNS OF PRIORITISATION STRUCTURAL FUNDS
6. A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND AN INNOVATIVE TESTBED IN BSR
7. WINNET 8 X 8 PRIORITIES FOR THE COHESION POLICY
8. ANNEX 1. SIX KEY MESSAGES FOR THE

Policy key messages in the context:

- Framework & Objectives
- Programming & evaluation
- Allocation of Funding & Financial Incentives
- Statistics & Indicators
- Involvement & Partnerships
- Monitoring & Evaluation

Winnet 8 with representation from 8 Member States from 9 regions in northern, southern, eastern and western Europe has identified eight priorities in the regulations for the future Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 in the EU

1. These priorities cover an increased focus on gender equality in the labour market to achieve: the 75% employment rate target for women by 2020;
2. Gender budgeting to analyse the impact of the policy and assess the extent to which resources are allocated in gender-equal or unequal ways; data and indicators broken down by sex;
3. Gender perspective in the Operational Programmes for the European Structural Funds;
4. A dual approach combining gender mainstreaming with specific funding for positive actions;
5. Access to gender equality expertise in partnerships and decision-making bodies for the Structural Funds.
6. A gender equality flagship and interregional platform for cooperation are suggested, encompassing the collection of gender segregated statistics,
7. Comparative interregional analysis,
8. Research, advanced training and an exchange of practices.

9, Winnet 8 NUTS 2 action plans



Regional Action Plan to facilitate Women's contribution to Regional Growth in Northern Middle Sweden, NUTS 2

1. The creation of the Action Plan
2. Description of the present situation in connection to the objectives of the AP
3. The Regional Structural Fund Programme for Regional Competitiveness and employment Northern Middle Sweden, 2007–2013
4. Regional Development programmes (RUP)
5. Policies and politics
6. Gender-segregated labour market and identification of regions' areas of strength
7. Two regions with quite different conditions
8. Two regions with quite different conditions

- Detailed objectives based on the identified challenge

- Ensure that women's ideas, innovations and entrepreneurial spirit are utilised
- Steps and tasks for meeting the objectives
- Description of proposed good example

Inventory of women's networks with the purpose of identifying growth areas and potential innovation system

- Resource allocation for tasks
- Expected obstacles to completion of tasks

Annex 1

Policy recommendations for a more gender-equal division of project funding

Annex 2

SWOT analyses Northern Middle Sweden

Recommendations to increase Growth and Competitiveness

Establish a European Platform of actors for Gender Equality in Cohesion Policy and EU 2020 strategy to promote (both within the EU & across Member States):

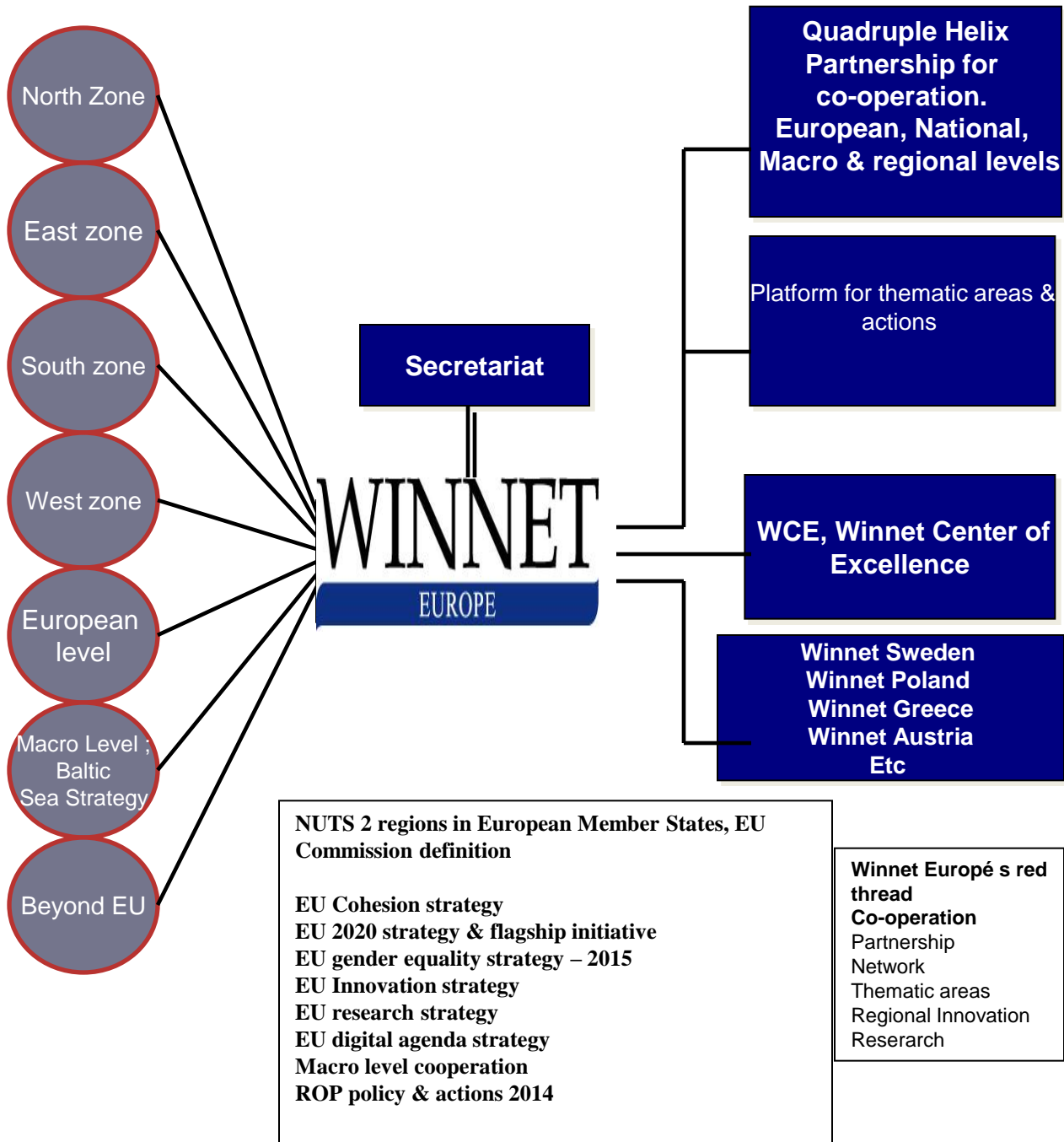
- Gender specific actions, priority and budget allocations, to secure women`s participation in the labour market, ICT, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Gender mainstreaming to secure shared knowledge/expertise on ensuring a gendered perspective in all decisions i.e. ESF, ERDF, Interregional programmes across all EU member states
- Clear result indicators and measures for gender equality must be established and followed upon

The Winnet 8 network of gender researchers/experts/practitioners could provide that Centre of Excellence/Forum-working together to ensure a sustained impact on policies and actions leading

A Winnet Centre of Excellence was established in 2011 in Sweden and is under development in EU BSR as a testbed

- To document, analyse, disseminate and mainstream the experiences from Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) in Europe since the mid-90s.
- The WCE Centre will gather a critical mass of high-level interactive researchers as well as several interdisciplinary approaches & strategic research agenda will be to understanding of the emergence, organisation and results of WRCs and thus inform the future design of policy measures for regional growth

The Winnet 8 network of gender researchers/experts/practitioners could provide that Centre of Excellence/Forum-working together to ensure a sustained impact on policies and actions leading





Gender Equality Makes Economic Sense

Winnet 8, established in 8 member states, where a combined commitment to the principles of gender mainstreaming & finance/resources for effective positive action addressing occupational segregation & promoting entrepreneurship, Innovation and ICT.

The results and impacts are effecting real change and strengthening those regions' growth and competitiveness

Gender Inequality is costing the EU billions each year

Responsible for communication and dissemination
Mrs Britt-Marie S Torstensson

britt-marie.torstensson@winnetsverige.se

www.winnet8.eu