

# TRIENNium REPORT

May 2011 – May 2014

## TASKFORCE: Leadership and Lifelong Learning

Chair: Antoinette Rüegg, Past President BPW International

**MEMBERS:** *Khadiga El-Tazi, Sudan, Elizabetta Gregoric, Itlay, Antonette Hillbrandt, BPW Germany, Johanna Marius, Member Executive Board BPW Germany, Conny Montague, Chair Leadership & Lifelong Learning Europe, starting 2013, BPW Germany, Fidelia Oyefeko, Nigeria, Maria Augusta Ribeiro, Brazil, Daniela Rigassi, Switzerland, Sabine Schmelzer, Switzerland, Regional Coordinator Europe, ("Personal Empowerment Program"), Anne-Cathrine Schreiber, Germany, (Chair Leadership & Lifelong Learning Europe, till end of 2012, Isabel Silveira, Brazil.*

**Taskforce COOPERATES** with Past President Liz Benham. Taskforce Chairs "Peace & Intercultural Understanding", Elisa Campos, Brazil, and "Mentoring", Marianne Plattner, Switzerland, UN Geneva BPW Main Representative, Catherine Bosshart

### List of "BPW International Further Education Tools":

- "PEP" (Personal Empowerment Program), 14 modules, PEP information video by Sabine Schmelzer
  - "Career Skills Achievement Program", 6 modules, BPW Canada
  - "Success Teams", BPW Frankfurt and BPW Switzerland
  - "Conflict Management", 6 Conflict solving roles for organizations
  - "10 reasons for being a board member in BPW"
- different tools are still "in the pipeline"

### Weekend Meeting Taskforce "Leadership & Lifelong Learning" Europe, Munich, November 2013

Chair: Conny Montague, hosted by Johanna Marius

Contributors and participants: Gudrun Becker, BPW Germany, Ester Eomois, BPW Estonia, Kukka Lehmusvitra, Finland, Leena Kivisild, Estonia, Carla Laura Petruzelli ("Mentoring" BPW Europe), Marianne Plattner (Chair "Mentoring"), Antoinette Rüegg (Chair "Leadership & Lifelong Learning")

The **next** Taskforce weekend meeting "Leadership & Lifelong Learning" Europe will take place in Tallinn, Estonia, 12-14 December 2014

### Conferences, Events supported or organized by Task Force members

#### 1 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

##### 1.1 Regional Conference Europe, Sorrento, Italy, September 2012

General inputs on "Leadership & Lifelong Learning" by Sabine Schmelzer and Liz Benham. Workshop "Cross-Cultural Understanding and True Self-Confidence" by Elisa Campos and Antoinette Rüegg.

Input at internal Presidents' Meeting: "Renewal of the organization of Committees, Taskforces & Projects" by Antoinette Rüegg

##### 1.2 Regional Conference Asia & Pacific, Taipeh, Taiwan, December 2012

"Small Leadership Summit" by Liz Benham & Antoinette Rüegg

##### 1.3 Regional Conference North America, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2013

"Small Leadership Summit" by Liz Benham

##### 1.4 Regional Conference Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, July 2013

"Small Leadership Summit" by Antoinette Rüegg

Presentations by Sabine Schmelzer: "Sharing Best Practices from BPW Europe" and "Benefits of ICT for Leadership"

##### 1.5 Regional Conference Latin America, Costa Rica, October 2013

"Small Leadership Summit" by Liz Benham

##### 1.6 Presidents' Conference Europe, Brussels, Belgium, May 2013

Input: "Renewal of the organization of Committees, Taskforces & Projects" by Antoinette Rüegg

#### 2 CONFERENCES

##### 2.1 New York

###### 2.1.1 Leaders Summits in New York, February 2012, February 2013 & March 2014

Presentations "Strengths, Strategies of BPW", Antoinette Rüegg and Liz Benham

###### 2.1.3 "Women & Holistic Leadership", Feb. 2012, Feb. 2013 & March 2014

Headed and organized by Susanne Müller, BPW USA, supported by Johanna Marius and Antoinette Rüegg

## 2.2 Cairo

**2.2.3 “Cairo International Women’s Conference”**, April 2012, 2013, 2014, organized and headed by Amany Asfour, President BPW Egypt  
Presentation “Leadership and Emotional Intelligence” by Antoinette Rüegg and presentation “Learning to Lead” by Sabine Schmelzer

**2.2.4 “Cross-Cultural Understanding Conference”**, April 2012, 2013, 2014, organized and headed by Amany Asfour and Antoinette Rüegg  
Presentations by Amany Asfour, Catherine Bosshart, Elisa Campos, Antonette Hillbrandt, Johanna Marius, Daniela Rigassi, Antoinette Rüegg

**2.3 BPW Cyprus**, April 2012,  
Workshop “How to develop leadership skills in BPW?” by Sabine Schmelzer

**2.4 BPW Danubien Forum, Sofia, Bulgaria**, November 2013,  
Presentation “Female Entrepreneurship Encouragement” by Sabine Schmelzer

**2.5 Celebration of FIDAPA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Mai 2013, Palermo, Italy  
(FIDAPA Foundation is working with BPW Italy)  
Presentations “Cross – Cultural Understanding and True Self - Confidence” by Antoinette Rüegg

**2.6 Brazil, Annual Conference of BPW Brazil**, October 2013  
Presentation on “What can a member get from BPW International?” by Elisa Campos and Antoinette Rüegg,  
Maria Augusta Ribeiro and Isabel Silveira, Brazil, decided to work for the taskforce.

**2.7 BPW Spain, Marbella**, October 2013, “Connect Plus Conference”:  
Workshop on “Proactive Networking” by Sabine Schmelzer

**2.8 Young BPW Symposium, Lille, France**, October 2013  
Presentation “Success Teams” by Sabine Schmelzer

## 3 PEP TRAININGS (PEP = Personal Empowerment Program)

### 3.1 “Train - the - Trainer Trainings”

**3.1.3 Germany 1<sup>st</sup> “Train - the Trainer - Training”** in Munch, February 2013  
Headed by Conny Montague and supported by Johanna Marius, Sabine Schmelzer.  
17 participants from 7 countries (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland & Taiwan)

**3.1.4 Germany 2<sup>nd</sup> “Train- the -Trainer Training”** in Munch, February 2014  
Headed by Conny Montague and supported by Johanna Marius. Participants from 4 countries (Germany, Switzerland, France & Ukraine). A next training is planned for 2015

### 3.2 “PEP Trainings”

**3.2.3 Switzerland: PEP Trainings** in BPW Chur, April 2012, BPW Thun, October 2012, BPW Lake Geneva, Nov. 2012, BPW Geneva by Sabine Schmelzer

**3.2.4 Estonia** (Trainings for 100 participants)

**3.2.5 Germany** (different trainings)

## 4 GENERAL TRAININGS

**BPW Bahry, Sudan**, BPW and Khadiga Eltazi support two training centers for capacity building, one for business women and another for general competences.

## 5 LEADERSHIP & LIFELONG LEARNING: The taskforce provides support in different areas

### 5.1 UN: Opportunity for members attending UN conferences

As UN Conferences are excellent further education opportunities and free of charge the Taskforce works very close with BPW Main Representative UN Geneva, Catherine Bosshart, and BPW Switzerland. **BPW Switzerland supports the additional administrative work by SFr. 2000 / year.**

**5.1.1 Meeting: “Opportunities for members to attend UN conferences”**, Geneva, September 2012, chaired by Liz Benham and Antoinette Rüegg. Participants: Catherine Bosshart, Marlene Parenzan (UN Vienna) and different UN representatives

- 5.1.2 **Conference UN “International Trade Centre”**, Geneva, May 2013, in presence of Freda Miriklis. New opportunities for BPW to cooperate with ITC, “International Employers”, ILO and other leaders in economy
- 5.1.3 **Meeting**, Geneva, September 2013, with Amelia Espejo, Advisor of the **Organization of International Employers**, looking for cooperation with BPW at the next annual ILO Conference in 2014
- 5.1.4 **Meeting**, Geneva, October 2013, Liz Benham, Catherine Bosshart & Antoinette Rüegg meet **CONGO Chair Cyril Ritchie** and discuss the opportunities of NGOs like BPW to cooperate with UN

**5.2 RESOLUTION: Renewal of the organization of Committees, Taskforces & Projects** (Resolution at International Congress related to BPW internal matters: I-1)

Good leadership and optimal learning opportunities are an issue of this Taskforce. Therefore a large group of members, headed by Antoinette Rüegg, in cooperation with the BPW International Executive Board, prepared a resolution which organizes our committees, taskforces and projects on international level in a more efficient way and add to the “top down” taskforces well controlled “bottom up” opportunities. Working in taskforces and projects means mainly “learning by doing” and provides not only know-how but the very valuable emotional competences. “Bottom up” taskforces or projects offer members an unique and efficient learning opportunity and empowers BPW International at the same time. Members can use the extremely rich BPW environment to work on what they are motivated to do and like that get their tailor made trainings without a time limit. The new rules will be tested during the next 2 terms and the Taskforce will support this process.

**6 Empowering YOUNG BPW by the “BPW International Isolde Fritsch Albert PRIZE”**

At the Regional Conference Europe Cornelia Riep, Past President BPW Tricino (Switzerland), informed Antoinette Rüegg about a member of her Club, Isolde Fritsch Albert, who would offer an annual 5000 € - prize to a Young BPW. As nobody was ready to established the link between the donor and BPW International and to provide all information and guidelines, Cornelia Riep and Antoinette Rüegg did the job fully supported by Freda Miriklis.

**7 Empowering member.** As the Taskforce encourages members to become active on international level, some activities support the Membership **Chair**

**7.1 Questionnaire** about what **motivates** and what **de-motivates** members to belong to **BPW International**.

At the annual conferences of BPW Italy and BPW Brazil nearly 60 members in each country answered the questionnaire which were offered in Italian and Portuguese. The fact that they belong to an international organization which brings forward women issues on international level is the main motivator to belong to an international network. Language barriers and not enough information are the two main de-motivators. The final results will be published by Jill Worobec, Chair Membership, on the website of BPW International

**7.2 BPW Manama (Bahrain)** organized a conference and invited for its first BPW anniversary members of the BPW International Executive Board and Antoinette Rüegg. The BPW guests spoke about BPW International and the numerous opportunities offered through membership and were touched by the outstanding performances of the new BPW Club Manama.

A conference participant who Antoinette Rüegg accidentally met at the airport was interested to found a **BPW Club in Rabat** (Morocco). As the women prefers a French speaking contact for starting a club, Antoinette Rüegg is assisting with this.

Both, the president of BPW Manama and the future president of BPW Rabat will attend the “Leadership Summit” 2014 in New York, which shows how much these **annual Summit supports the leaders and also BPW International**.

**8 Women Empowerment Principles**

The taskforce worked on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> WEP

A big thank you to all taskforce members and the numerous BPW, also the unnamed ones, who cooperated with the taskforce and contributed to all the taskforce successes during this term.

Zurich, February 2014

Antoinette Rüegg