



**Catalogue of resources centers for equal opportunities
among women and men.**

Abstract

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This is just a short abstract of the catalogue made within the project “The Puglia Region network of Women Resources Centers”.

The project is about the transferring of good practises elaborated in Lombardy Region within the project “Recife” (Recite-femmes) to Puglia Region.

The catalogue analyzes the Resources Centers developed by the partners of such Recife project in two Italian regions, in three European regions and a few experiences developed starting from this good practise.

The programme of trans-regional co-operation Recite II

Within the European Social Found Strand 1994-1999, the programme of trans-regional co-operation Recite II, supported by European Found of Regional Development, has been important for starting project pilots of local and regional development and for exchanging experiences and knowledge among the European regions actors.

The fourth of the five strand of Recite programme was dedicated to the creation of resources centers for the valorisation of women work and the integration of women in the economical life.

The Resources centers, hereafter analyzed, have been developed within the Recite project, supported by Recite II programme.

Recite is a project of trans-regional co-operation among 6 regions and countries: Finland (North Karelia), France (Ile de France), Italia (Lombardy region and Sardinia), Spain (Navarra), and Portugal (Santarem district).

Project partners:

Center National d'Information et de Documentation des Femmes et des Familles – CNIDFF – Paris

Centro Europeo de Empresas e Innovacion de Navarra – Pamplona

Movimento de Solidariedade Rural – Lisboa

Istituto Canario de la Mujer – Iles Canarias

Istituto Formazione Lavoro Donne – Cagliari

Regione Lombardia – Milano

The association of Women Entrepreneurs – North Karelia

The Swedish Women Resources Centers: a pilot project

The first European Resources Center was established in the Swedish region of Gavleborg in 1989.

This Center has been the model for several other Centers in all the country.

In 1999, 21 regional Centers and 100 local Centers have founded the National Federation of Women Resources Centers.

The Swedish Government supports such centers and, in 2001, the Swedish Parliament has approved and financed an annual grant for the centers.

The main tasks of the Women resources centers are:

- women enterprises incubator
- promotion of mentoring programmes for women
- promotion of women technical training
- promotion of women participation to local development
- vocational training for unemployed women
- research programmes about women and health

The Resources Centres for Equal Opportunities within the Recife project

Resources Centers tasks:

- supporting women integration in economic life trough:
 - a better knowledge and utilisation of all resources locally available
 - networking among all the centers supporting equal opportunities

Operational goals:

- sharing resources and information
- elaborating a animation and information system
- capitalizing work competences on the net

Resources Centres characteristics:

- mainly devoted to women
- provide information and help in using the resources (public, privet...) already available in the district
- work in network, activating co-operations and synergies among all the local actors supporting women participation to the social and economic life and equal opportunities
- promote development policy coherent with the local contest and support new kind of social partnerships among deeply-rooted local actors
- are supported by public authorities and private organizations
- they are not hierarchical structured but based on networking
- help directly women and/or support local resources centers and equal opportunities services

Resources centres Beneficiaries

- women
- public administration and private organization
- local development actors
- enterprises

The Regional Centre of Lombardy Region

The Regional Centre of Lombardy Region supports and helps cities and provinces in widening women participation in the political, economic and social life.

It is the lead partner of a network of 97 Local Resources Centres for equal opportunities involved in:

- innovating and improving the equal opportunities culture on the field
- improving the knowledge of opportunities and resources available
- underlining women role and supporting their activities
- disseminating good practises
- improving planning skills and resources utilisation
- supporting co-operation and exchanges among the network partners
- knowing and underling needs of the district

Activities:

-Information

The Regional Centre of Lombardy Region gathers and disseminates information concerning call for proposal, researches, projects, seminars...

-Training

Local and regional courses for local and regional civil servants

-Local planning support

Helps on demand supporting local administration and local resources centres which are planning local initiatives or are participating to call for proposals

-Regional project development

Project for strengthening local resources centres for equal opportunities and involving the local authorities

Beneficiaries

- Civil servants operating on the field of equal opportunities
- Councillors for equal opportunities
- Local administration actors
- Local services for equal opportunities
- Women association
- Public and private organization supporting the participation of women in the local development

Contacts

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Sardinia Resources Centre IFOLD Service-abc Impresa

Supported by Sardinia region, it aims to develop resource centres within the province of Cagliari and Oristano

Aims:

- integrating specific action for old people, women, youth...and transversal action implying gender policies and local and employment development policies
- monitoring legislative, vocational, economical, political activities devoted to the local and employment development
- helping local administration in managing local development projects supporting women mainly young or immigrants
- supporting women entrepreneurship, easing the women access to the labor market, improving business incubation services
- promoting business culture
- improving the skills of local actors involved in equal opportunities task

Activities:

- information, networking, seminars, training
- guidance (for self-employed persons and business incubation)
- enterprises guidance
- vocational training
- professional plans

Beneficiaries

First level:

- unemployed women o with precarious jobs
- single-parent family
- aspiring women entrepreneurs
- adult women wanting to start working or came back working
- unemployed youth
- unemployed adults

Second level:

- local organizations involved in local development policies or employment policies or equal opportunities policies
- equal opportunities policies
- “informagiovani” or “informadonne”
- employment services
- local associations

Contacts

Centro risorse di parità di Regione Sardegna

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Regional Resources Centre Ile de France

The Regional Resources Centre Ile de France is a pilot project, it welcomes and addresses people towards the right local services

Aims:

-strengthening women integration in the economical life by supporting equal opportunities on the field

Activities:

-Information: the centre gathers information about employment and women thus, through data communication, spreads them towards local partners

It provides to the women information about recruitment, training supply, conciliation service, business incubation, new professional profiles and entrepreneurship

It provides to entrepreneurs information about tools helping hiring, candidates, planning

Cultural activities and sensitization:

The Centre supports communication activities, essays about women labor market and equal opportunities, organizes seminars and thematic meetings, publishes a newsletter concerning its own activities

Training:

The centre manages several vocational training paying attention to the new technologies

Beneficiaries:

-women looking for a job

-entrepreneurs

-institutional partners

Contacts:

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The Resource Centre of Navarra Region

The Resource Centre of Navarra Region has been established by *Centro Europeo de empresas a Innovacion de Navarra* and *Instituto Navarro de la Mujer* for improving enterprises where women are top managers

Aims:

- networking all the enterprises of Navarra managed by women
- providing business information
- networking public organizations, private ones and corporate associations
- networking at European level
- spreading of good practises
- gathering data about the needs of SMEs of Navarra

Activities:

- an information and services portal for enterprises
- training

Beneficiaries:

- women entrepreneurs
- women with a business plan
- women members of corporate associations
- women managers

Contacts:

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The Regional Resources Center of Karelia, Finland

The Regional Resources Center of Karelia, Finland was established by the Women Corporate Association of North Karelia.

Aims:

- developing either networks among the women entrepreneurs of North Karelia either national and international networks
- developing woman entrepreneurship at local, national and international level
- widening the local and regional women activities
- widening women participation in the local development and in the regional and national policy

Beneficiaries:

- women entrepreneurs
- women interested in business incubation
- women wanting to take part in the local, regional, national and international policy
- women wanting to come back to the economical life after having a break due, i.e., to maternity

Activities:

- consultancy
- editing of business incubation guide, financial guide...
- training (legislative training, EU training...)
- guidance and sensitization (co-operation with University, women projects support, seminars, newsletter...)

Contacts

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A few experiences after the Recife Project

Win – Women in net

Women in net is an European association established by Bic Puglia Spring, Centro di Iniziativa Europea (CdIE), Bic Emilia Romagna and Municipality of Skydra (Greece) with the main aims of gender equality.

It follows two regional co-operation project: Recife and ENREC financed by the European Commission within the RECITE II programme

Aims:

- creating a European network of public and private Women resources centre for exchanging and transferring experiences and good practises concerning gender equality and local development
- supporting the recognition of the Resources centers as specific services for the local development within a gender equality frame
- strengthening the dialogue with the European institutions
- developing quality indicators for resources centers
- benchmarking
- improving the competences of local actors
- disseminating the resources centers model in third countries

Beneficiaries:

Everybody who is interested in

Contacts:

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The Interreg IIIc project W.IN.NET

The Interreg IIIc project W.IN.NET, edited within the European network WIN, will work from July 2003 till January 2006 for strengthening the co-operation among Resources centres of nine countries

The trans-national project secretariat is in Brussels

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The Women Resources Centre of the province of Venice

The Women Resources Centre of the province of Venice was established by the Venice Councilorship for equal opportunities.

Within the Equal project R.I.DO of what the province of Venice is lead partner, such Center has assumed the co-ordination of a local network supporting equal opportunities.

Aims:

- easing women access to finance resources, information and training
- supporting women competences
- easing conciliation
- supporting woman entrepreneurship
- supporting a better integration of women in the labor market
- underling gender issues within public and private services
- easing the creation of networks among different actors
- easing the communication among women deputies, women member of corporate associations...

Beneficiaries:

- local women resources centers
- equal opportunities tools of public administration, corporate associations and enterprises
- public organization and enterprises wanting to valorise competences and role of the women and to provide conciliation services
- women elected within the administrations of the province
- Associations, groups and women wanting to create a local network for being informed of local and European calls for proposals

Activities:

- training
- guidance and co-ordination of the Women resources centers network and of the R.I.DO desks
- information
- sensitization
- elected women network

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The Local Resources Centres for Equal Opportunities within the Equal Project “Contempo”

Within the Equal Project “Contempo”, 5 Local Resources Centers for Equal Opportunities were established in Pavia, Lodi, Crema, Cremona and Mantua for easing women participation to the labor market and the conciliation

Aims:

- sensitisation about conciliation, gender topics...
- supply of women needs concerning conciliation
- developing conciliation services

Activities:

- information about the local conciliation services, training, employment and entrepreneurship services
- consultancy for family, associations and enterprises
- association, co-operatives and enterprises incubation
- training
- networking
- sensitisation seminars

Beneficiaries:

- women and men
- co-operatives
- job centers