



Winnet Centre of Excellence® BSR

Innovation, Gender & Growth Platform in BSR

Thanks to the support from the Swedish Government, Winnet Sweden, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Embassy of Sweden in Poland and the Swedish Institute it was possible to establish a Winnet Centre of Excellence® BSR at the University of Szczecin 2014. This Excellence Centre focuses on applied, interactive and policy relevant research in the Baltic Sea Region in four areas: Gender and Macroeconomics: Gender and Innovation: Gender and Entrepreneurship: Gender and ICT. In the forthcoming years large scale R&D projects will be implemented by the Centre in collaboration with top researchers in Sweden and other countries around the Baltic Sea. Research will provide advice for policy makers at local, regional, national and EU levels.

Thanks to the support from the Embassy of Sweden and the Swedish Institute (SI) it has also been possible to strengthen the collaboration in the field of Innovation, Gender & Growth between Poland and Sweden. A Partnership Platform involving Winnet Sweden, University of Szczecin

and the International Women's Forum in Poland were supported by SI during 2013. The Partnership Platform has – thanks to the continued support from SI and Winnet Sweden – from 2014, expanded with actors from the Baltic States. During 2013-2016 the thematic partnership (TP) Winnet BSR with partners from Poland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – funded by SI – strives to create better opportunities for women led/owned businesses in tourism and in ICT.

The strengthened relations between actors in Poland, Sweden and the Baltic States have resulted in an Innovation, Gender & Growth (IGG) Flagship Platform for the Baltic Sea Region to be launched in 2015. This Platform also involves partners from Finland and Norway. Without the support from Sweden and the strong collaborative networks between Polish and Swedish actors this Platform would not have been possible to launch. The IGG Platform is the first macro-regional initiative focused on Innovation, Gender & Growth in Europe.

We would like to – on behalf of the TP Winnet BSR partnership – express our thanks to the Swedish Government and the Embassy of Sweden in Poland.

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