

Fostering the Young Women Entrepreneurship in the Danube Region

The first Dissemination Event “**Women in Business Project - from idea to results**” was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 28th of November 2018, hosted by the **Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM)**. The Event brought together interested groups, academic institutions, business support organizations, key decision makers, stakeholders and SMEs in order to highlight the first results of the project.



"Today we present to Moldova entrepreneurs a new project: Women in Business, which aims to encourage young women with innovative ideas to launch and develop their own business through instruments that will contribute to the formation of competences in social and business innovation, by setting up Entrepreneurship Centers and developing innovative training programs alongside our partners in the Danube region." said **Petru Gurgurov, Interim Director General of ODIMM**.

Ralitsa Zhekova, Executive Director of the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, - Varna (RAPIV), Bulgaria, said: *"Before we launched this project, we found that 52% of the Danube population is female and only 30% of them carry out entrepreneurial activities. At the same time, only 10% of young women aged up to 34 years have the courage to start own business and only 2% of them survive a 42-month activity period. So, we set out to launch this project and to facilitate women's access to entrepreneurship."*

"Young women from Moldova proved to have a very creative and original thinking when it comes to solve problems, have an original thinking and are able to surprise people with new ideas. This finding was made as a result of a study within Women in Business project", said **Silvia Cangea, Project Manager, ODIMM**.



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202 young women from the Republic of Moldova participated in the online survey within the project. The findings of this study suggest that 35% of young women are thinking about starting a business and only 15% of them are definitely are planning to start an entrepreneurial activity. At the same time, most young women studying or working are not even thinking about launching a business until they are sure that have enough financial resources. The lack of financial resources is one of biggest barriers that young women have to deal with in order to open a business, followed by lack of entrepreneurial skills.



WOMEN IN BUSINESS has duration of 36 months and is implemented by a consortium of 14 partners from 9 countries in the Danube region: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova. Project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI) under the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020.

