

*The International Network
Women in Nuclear –
its Role in Communication and Education*

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Today's Challenges

- *Nuclear energy is facing a very difficult period – at least in Europe*
- *Only a few weeks ago*
 - *Nuclear energy had been an important part in many countries' energy mix*
 - *The world was talking about a Nuclear Renaissance*
 - *Lots of people were eager to work in the nuclear industry*
- *Then, the name **Fukushima** became notorious*
 - *Several countries are considering their nuclear extension plans*
 - *Public acceptance for nuclear energy went down in huge parts of the world*
 - *Young people aren't attracted anymore by the nuclear industry*
- *WiN is committed to do its very best in supporting nuclear energy*

WiN Global

- *was founded in 1993*
- *today some 3100 members from 80 countries*
- *supports and encourages women working in nuclear industries throughout the world*
- *aims to promote the understanding and public awareness of the benefits of nuclear and radiation applications*
- *acts on an international level, with many countries having their own domestic chapters*



Leading Group members at constitutional meeting are left to right, Roxanne Summers (Canadian Nuclear Association); Sabine Knapp (Inforum Germany); France Bres-Tutino (CEA France); Irene Aegerter, Chairperson (VSE Switzerland); Agneta Rising (Ringhals NPP, Sweden); Marke Heininen (IVO Finland); Corinne Souwer (ECN Netherlands); and Patricia Bryant (USCEA).

WiN Europe

- *was founded in autumn 2010 to benefit from the cultural and geographical proximity of its members*
- *legal entity under French law*
- *is currently composed of 11 European WiN Chapters*
 - *IAEA, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Spain*
 - *Representing a total of 1,200 members*
- *aims to exchange experiences, ideas and best practices to play an active role in the nuclear industry and the public perception*



Principal Objectives of WiN Europe

- *Communicating and increasing the awareness of the public, in particular of women and the young generation, of the benefits of nuclear technologies*
- *Encouraging scholarships in nuclear science, technologies and applications*
- *Fostering education and training in engineering and nuclear fields*
- *Facilitating access to the first jobs in these fields for alumni, particularly women*
- *Members serving as mentors*
- *Increasing diversity and gender equality in the nuclear sector*

Communications

- *Different communication tools*
 - *Newsletter on the international, European and Country levels*
 - *WiN Global meeting once a year, organized by a regional chapter*
 - *Web pages*
 - *Meetings of regional chapters or working groups*
 - *Round table discussion organized by WiN Bulgaria with other chapters (Slovakia, Romania, Hungary)*
- *In particular, WiN is a network which allows its members an easy, open and honest communication even on difficult topics*

Education and Mentoring – Few examples

- Awards
 - *WiN Romania holds two annual contests (drawing and essay) for young children*
 - *WiN France collaborates with EdF in the Fem'Énergia award*
 - *WiN Germany is offering a prize for an academic paper*
 - *WiN Hungary Award for the best performed female student in the annual national competition in physics science (Leo Szilard Competition)*
 - *WiN Bulgaria organizes several educational competitions*
- *Events for young people, children, parents or teachers*
 - *Daughter's day in the IAEA*
- *Mentorship*
 - *WiN Sweden provides mentors for students studying nuclear engineering at Uppsala university*
 - *WiN France members are mentoring females students from the INSA engineering school*
 - *WiN Germany members participate in the CyberMentor program which addresses girls and women who are interested in MINT*



Consequences of Fukushima

- *The incidents at Fukushima are changing the acceptance of nuclear energy*
 - *In the public perception*
 - *Inside the industry under HR aspects*
- *We have to change the topics of our communication*
 - *Return to the basics of nuclear science to rebuild trust*
 - *Radioactivity, units of measurement, half-life*
 - *Inform about often unknown nuclear applications*
 - *Accept and communicate our „lessons learned“*
 - *Put even more emphasis on safety – constantly improving safety and talking about it*

***WiN Europe will do its best to do so –
You are more than welcome to join us!***

www.win-europe.org

