



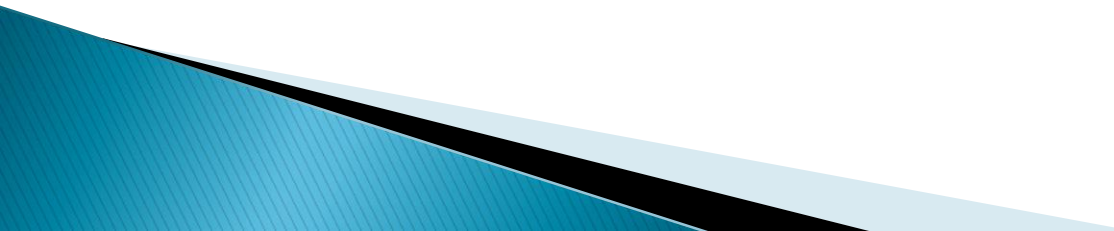
# Meet and Greet

Drs. E. Lommerse MMO

President UWE

# Welcome all

## Introduction Board UWE

- President: Edith Lommerse
  - Vice President: Elena Flavia Castagnino
  - Vice President Isabelle Trimaille
  - Treasurer: Auli Ojala
  - Secretary General Vacancy
  
  - Elections in august for Secretary General, Treasurer and President (second term for last two)
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# UWE

- ▶ Founded in 1981 as a regional group of IFUW
- ▶ Purpose: to enable European higher educated women to participate in the progressive development of European society.
- ▶ How:
  - Representatives at EWL and participative status Council of Europe.
  - Network of NFA's 19 countries (2015)

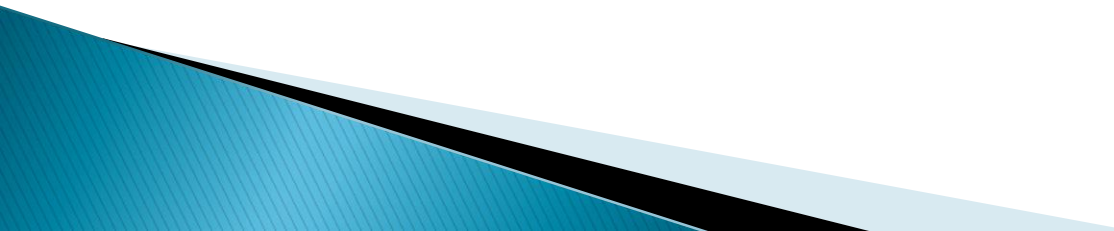
# Work at the EWL

- ▶ The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to organisations in all 28 EU member states and the three candidate countries, as well as to 20 European-wide bodies, representing a total of more than 2000 organisations.
- ▶ *VP Isabelle Trimaille is now at the AGM of The EWL as is Annelies Pierrot UWE Rep and treasurer EWL*

# Work at Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states. The European Union is preparing to sign the European Convention on Human Rights, creating a common European legal space for over 820 million citizens.

# What we do?


- ▶ Lobby and advocate: all European institutions
  - ▶ Cooperate with other Women's organisations (EWL and further)
  - ▶ Annual conference and a Meet an Greet
  - ▶ Sub regional meetings and friendship tours (DAG German speaking NFA's, Frabelus French speaking NFA's etc.) encourage friendship and cooperation!
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# Mission of UWE

- ▶ Encourage and empower women to participate more actively in public life
- ▶ Promote lifelong education, especially for girls and women
- ▶ Achieve greater unity among European members of IFUW and other European Women's organisations that support our mission
- ▶ To promote action by encouraging cooperation among European members  
To lobby within the Council of Europe for the strengthening of the status of women and to lobby within the EU via the European Women's Lobby.



# Status of women in EU

- Women are still paid on average around 16% less than men per hour of work across the entire economy
  - Women continuing to be underrepresented in leadership positions, including decision-making functions in politics and in corporate boardrooms – with women holding only 27% of seats in national parliaments and governments; 18% of board seats; and 3% of CEO positions
  - Violence against women remains an issue, with an estimated 20-25% of women in Europe having been victims of physical violence at least once in their lives
  - Persisting stereotypes of traditional gender roles meaning that women still carry a disproportionate share of the burden of housework and of caring for children, the elderly and other dependants.
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# UWE: current situation

- ▶ Great network:
  - We have an important role to play in Europe
  - Great gatherings and commitment
  - Well educated and capable women
  - A worthy cause
  - Two meetings a year
  - Several Gruntvig projects have been undertaken
  - Well visited website and growing likes on Facebook
  
- ▶ But also:
  - Lengthy internally oriented discussions
  - Some EU countries not represented
  - Diminishing membership in all NFA's
  - Lack of visibility and clear agenda



# What UWE needs

- ▶ Focus, Communication and more Cooperation
  - In the board, board-CERS
  - Between NFA's
  - With partner organizations
- ▶ Work on concrete themes 'a UWE-agenda'
- ▶ Funding for projects





## **Action plan 2015-2018**

The UWE board  
May 2015 Amsterdam 1

# Strategy

UWE Services and actions should suit three categories

1. Existing and loyal members, e.g. conferences, friendship tours, network
2. Action oriented and new members, e.g.. mentoring, further civil society trough actions, advocacy programmes and workshops on EU, COE, EWL including visits.
3. Friends of UWE not committed to full membership but solely interested in European activities

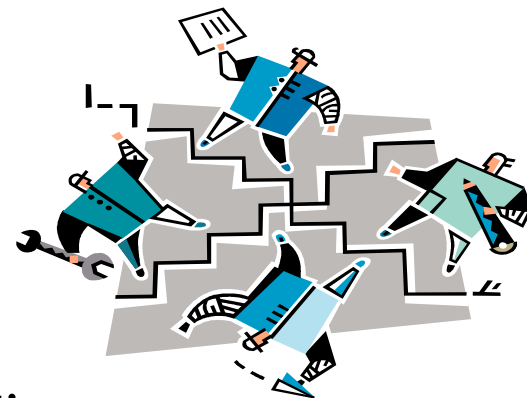
Sharing and promoting best practices

- ▶ Twinning between NFA's
- ▶ Communication: calendar and newsletters
- ▶ Use of modern technologies: skype etc.

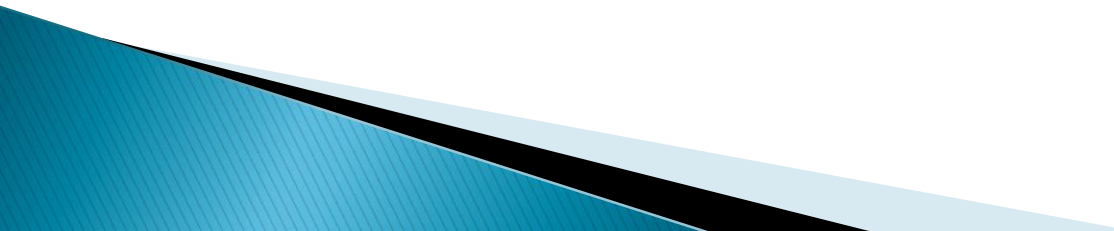
More funding through subsidies and fundraising:

- ▶ Invest in: leadership, project management, fundraising, advocacy-skills

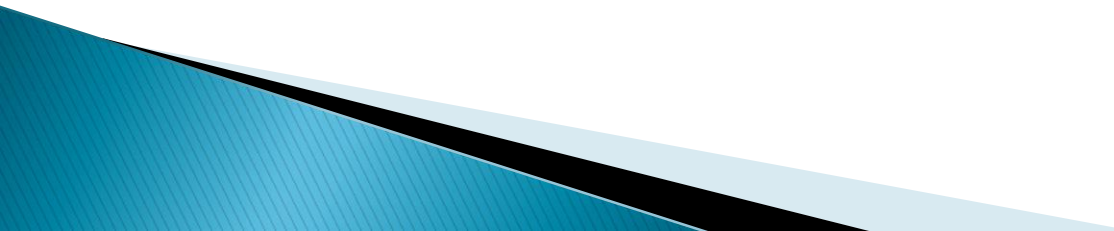
Get a seat for UWE in European country so UWE can get subsidies



# UWE activities

- ▶ On going information sharing via the website and meetings Meet and Greet; annual UWE Conference
  - ▶ Representation at EWL and INGO Conference of the Council of Europe
  - ▶ Executive representation by UWE treasurer at EWL Annelies Pierrot and Gender Expert at the Council of Europe UWE member Anne Nègre
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# UWE themes

1. Support implementation of Istanbul Convention
  2. More women in leadership positions
  3. Increase networking capacity
  4. Engage and invest in next generation
  5. Sound basis for UWE
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# 1. Support implementation of Istanbul Convention

Why	What	Who
<p>Violence against women remains an issue, with an estimated 20-25% of women in Europe having been victims of physical violence at least once in their lives</p> <p>In EU reactionary groups aim to block the implementation in several countries and EU wide.</p>	<p>Advocacy plan, support implementation on <b>Convention Violence against women,</b></p>	<p>Working committee: VP's + Pres.</p>
<p>The ample opportunities to influence COE and EU as well as our national parliaments are not used by all NFA's. Using them with a clear message will help putting forward our mission.</p>	<p>Develop infrastructure of digital communication of Cers and working groups nationally and international</p>	<p>CERs</p>

## 2. . More women in leadership positions

Why	What	Who
<p>Women are severely hit by the crisis. Women are still paid on average around 16% less than men per hour of work . Underrepresented in leadership positions, including decision-making functions in politics and in corporate boardrooms – with women holding only 27% of seats in national parliaments and governments; 18% of board seats; and 3% of CEO positions</p>	<p>Advocacy and supporting visibility of women in media and projects. EWL has complete advocacy plans and materials.</p>	<p>Working group Women on boards</p>



### 3. Increase Networking capacity

Why	What	Who
<p>To use the opportunities in civil society and to network towards jobs women need to cooperate and support one another. Men are using their networks to their advantage than women.</p> <p>The need for women in boards is to enhance the integrity and the parity of organisations.</p>	<p>Develop and implement code of solidarity and network to the advantage of women.</p> <p>Develop governing capabilities of women</p>	<p>Working group</p>
<p>UWE has no legal status in its own right, therefore it can't have a bank account in its own name.</p> <p>To be able to govern properly and to be able to get subsidies we need to have a legal status in our own right.</p>	<p>Seat UWE change in order to get subsidies and be able to have an own financial account.</p> <p>Get NGO status UN</p>	<p>Board</p>

## 4. Engage and Invest in Next Generation

Why	What	Who
Diminishing membership of almost all our NFA's	Friendship bridge (good practice TAUW)	Committee TAUW
Diminishing number of NFA's membership of UWE	Young members: train trip around Europe; aim visibility, education and feedback Cultural Heritage Prize	Pres and working committee
	Support EU wide a project for girls to go to school in developing country	All

## 5. Sound basis for UWE

Why	What	Who
<p>UWE has no legal status in its own right, therefore it can't have a bank account in its own name.</p> <p>To be able to govern properly and to be able to get subsidies we need to have a legal status in our own right.</p>	<p>Seat UWE change in order to get subsidies and be able to have an own financial account.</p> <p>Get NGO status UN</p>	<p>Board</p>
<p>The UWE has no support from IFUW and needs to develop its own PR material and presence in the net. A more professional layout and additional material will help to promote UWE and attract members to the events.</p>	<p>Develop professional PR material</p>	<p>PR group</p>
<p>The board needs working groups to develop and implement plans. Now it is mostly the four members we have to rely on to do any practical work. The Cers as a group need to reconsider what they see as their tasks as they hardly respond to the communication send.</p>	<p>Create and implement working structure</p>	<p>All</p>

# Energy, purpose and fun!



# Questions

