



LOCAL ACTION PLAN: AMIENS

Breaking barriers for female entrepreneurship

City of Amiens has developed a plan to support women starting their own business.

Problems to be addressed

Our local action plan was designed after a series of meetings with a network of non profit associations and the national employment department composing the local support group. This local support group was managed by the City of Amiens (department equality) and by a Consultant. This action plan mainly focuses on the difficulties encountered by women while creating their company and looking for a job.

We first went through a survey to point out the specific difficulties they encounter and to propose some practical solutions to solve them.

The main difficulty we then had was to make our decision makers accept and carry out these solutions we suggest; in other terms, our action depends upon political decisions. As we neared the end of the WEED period politicians gave full support to the plan.

Aims and Objectives

The issue being addressed are:

- time conciliation,
- mentalities

The current barrier to addressing the problem is the one of child bearing (difficulties for women when they lack resources to pay a baby-sitter or a kinder garden, difficulties when they work with specific timetables), of auto-censorship, transportation, a service to sustain unemployed women or new entrepreneurs which is not gender specific.

Stakeholders involved

The partners involved at a first step are the ones composing the local support group; the local action plan will then be transferred to other departments of the City of Amiens (education and economic development departments) and to other concerned collectivises.

We decided to focus on the most urgent and easy to solve problems encountered by women. Decisions were also affected by political will of the City of Amiens.

Actions Proposed

This action plan is founded on a survey carried out specifically for the purpose of the WEED project.

All the members of the local support group are currently working on these topics and they contributed to selecting the good solutions, the ones that haven't been experienced yet in our region.

These are some actions we propose to set up in our LAP :

- to create a platform to identify and pool the child minders still or partly available in Amiens and to create a website to facilitate access for parents. The idea is also to provide a training session for these child minders who will have to work for several families in shared time.
- to create a system of child minding for women who work with specific timetables,
- to organize information meetings in school (age 9-10) to propose children's games focusing on prejudices and gender stereotypes,
- to carry out a communication plan to promote car pooling. A website already exists to facilitate the contact between people in this field,
- To inform the national employment services, the structures helping company creations and banks about the specific difficulties encountered by women,
- To set up a specific action to help women to create their activity,
- To organize a network of European tutorship for women entrepreneurs.

All the activities will be evaluated in terms of:

- public concerned,
- funding obtained,
- results in terms of new actions carried out by women as compared with the survey we carried out at the beginning of the project.

How has transnational work contributed to the ideas for local action plan?

By comparing our difficulties and possible solutions with other European cities, we were able to better realize what are our strengths and gaps.

Contact:

Marie Boulanger

Tel: 03 22 97 41 55

ma.boulanger@amiens-metropole.com



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

|

EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT



