



Promotion of and obstacles to women entrepreneurship

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Key facts on women innovators and entrepreneurship in Europe

- Only 8.3% of patents awarded to women
- Only 20.3% of venture capital start ups belong to women
- Women score less than men on innovation of their business (products, processes, organization, marketing)
- Only 5-15% of high-tech business is owned by women

Source: Promotion of women innovators and entrepreneurship, EC 2008

Contextual obstacles for women entrepreneurs

- Educational choices
- Segregation in employment
- Science and technology as male-dominated environments less attractive
- Stereotypes about women make them less credible to clients, investors, business partners
- Traditional views about women's roles and ability to work long hours and keep up to date

Economic obstacles

- Difficulties to access finance
- Stereotypes and expectations
- Credibility
- Lack of access to business networks
- Lack of business training

Other barriers

- Women's own perceptions about their entrepreneurial skills
- Lack of successful role models
- Lack of mentoring and business coaching

European network to promote women's entrepreneurship

- Raising the visibility of existing female entrepreneurs
- Create a climate that is favourable to female entrepreneurs
- Increase the number of new women entrepreneurs
- Increase the size (scale) of existing women run businesses

Overcoming the obstacles

- Recognition of female entrepreneurship as engines of innovation and employment
- Adaptation of regulatory environment
- Inclusion in educational systems (training, promotion)
- Improve access to capital
- Development of (women) entrepreneurs networks
- Improve legal framework