



## **Egypt FCEM Congress – November 2007**

Report read by the MAWB president at the National Presidents Committee Meeting

### **Self Introduction**

During this year MAWB focused on recognition and growth as an association. Last year, MAWB worked at seriously addressing the issue of Malta having less than 20% female participation in the economic workforce. This was highlighted by the requirements in the European Lisbon Agenda.

Our work focused on the promotion on entrepreneurship, as the creation of enterprise, and as an alternative to employment among the unemployed in Malta. Some of our members were involved in mentoring within the European EQUAL project, together with Irish and the English partners.

MAWB also participated in another student EU project called SIFE, where members participated in presentations for the promotion of entrepreneurship. We were invited by the Ministry for SME's to speak as role models within this project. The audience targeted were the unemployed women who lacked tertiary education, and certain business skills required for the setting up of a business.

The Parliamentary Secretariat for Competitiveness and the SME's invited us to participate in the Trial Blazer, the EU Enterprise Awards highlighting MAWB's work in promoting enterprise. The association did not place as a winner but our participation was appreciated. Also in connection with the Lisbon Agenda projects, our former president Rosanne Galea shall be in Portugal next week.

We attended the Global Summit for Women in June 2007 in Berlin. Throughout the year, although all of the members lead very hectic lives, we managed to organise various information meetings and social events. The monthly information meeting serve to disseminate each other's expertise, and update in various new legislations. Other more important events, and the annual Seminar held on Women in Business day in May, were well attended and here I must mention a very special lady who keenly supports and participates in our activities; the American Ambassador Her Excellency Mrs Molly Bordonaro. MAWB is very grateful for her support.

As for recognition and growth of the association, we can modestly say that we enjoy an excellent reputation with most important authorities, and instituted bodies in Malta. MAWB is constantly on consultation meetings with different ministries, where our comments, recommendations, and feedback are appreciated. We are also seen in the media, where women in business interest are discussed.

Our vision for the coming year is to establish data of female economic activities in Malta, and work more on self development and self esteem, to encourage more women to come out of their hiding placed and join us in the world of enterprise.

MAWB comes for a small island with a small population but we work with a big hears, and a passion that befits our Mediterranean culture.

Thank you