



**Young  
BPW Europe**

**Report from 1<sup>st</sup> European Young BPW Meeting  
May 16-18<sup>th</sup> 2008, Istanbul / Turkey**

(written together with Burcu Gogus, Young BPW Ankara Representative)

At the very first beginning we would like to thank Young BPWs from BPW Ankara Club, for their great work on creating and organizing a wonderful weekend, where we all could meet!

We had a very good weekend, and we are very sure, that everyone of us took home valuable contacts, ideas and the BPW-spirit!

**Participants were from left to right:**

- Ela Gokalp, BPW Ankara/Turkey
- Mai Dang-Goy, BPW Munich/Germany
- Nadia Munawar Siddiqui, BPW Karachi/Pakistan
- Viktoria Balensiefen, Young BPW Europe Representative
- Burcu Bahar Gogus, BPW Ankara/Turkey
- Eva Garcia Bosch, BPW Valencia/Spain
- Seray Öztürk, BPW Istanbul
- Seda Yakinol, BPW Istanbul
- Leena Kinger, Guest from India



*Picture with  
all attendees*

This report includes

- Summary from the Meeting Agenda
- Ideas and possibilities



**Young  
BPW Europe**

## Summary from the Meeting Agenda

The 1<sup>st</sup> Young BPW Europe Weekend was designed as a “Meeting-Weekend”, with a lot of time and possibilities to get to know each other and a Conference Part to exchange ideas, inform about projects and Best-Practises, ask for tips on special questions.

On **Day 1**, we were invited for a fantastic Welcome-Dinner by Mrs. Muge Eryilmaz, President of BPW Istanbul. In addition to the Weekend-Participants, we met a lot of BPW members from Istanbul Club and could get into touch with them.



It was a great coincidence, that BPW Europe Regional Coordinator Gabriella Canonica and Arzu Özyol, President of BPW Ankara, were able to join us this evening.

This was the perfect starting point for a weekend to get to know each other better.

At this point thank you very much again, **Mrs. Muge Eryilmaz**, for hosting us so well!



# **BPW** INTERNATIONAL

Business & Professional Women

## **Young BPW Europe**

**Day 2** we explored Istanbul guided by a professional Tour Guide. With her help, we got into touch with Istanbul, its history and its specialities within only one day: we visited the main points Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Spice Market, we enjoyed Lunch at the fabulous Galata Bridge with a marvellous view – and made the unforgettable experience of a Turkish Hammam.



The Hammam was the perfect relaxing point after this Sightseeing-Tour and so we were fit for the program for the Night: Dinner at a Restaurant with a stunning view over Bosphorus.





**Young  
BPW Europe**

**Day 3** was our “Exchange-Day”. After having made friends with each other the day before, we now met in the Meeting-Room to talk officially.

**Topics** were for example:

- How do I successfully lay the seed for Young BPW
- How can I activate Young BPW
- What kind of information/communication structures are advantageous
- What kind of projects could we do on local and national level

We spread Handouts with Materials and Tools we have and we all can need:

- Young BPW Presentation and Young BPW Flyer
- Ideas and description for different projects
- Guideline “How to acquire members” and “How to integrate new members”



May Dang-Goy did give a summary about the **Young BPW Berlin Symposium Career Future Family** in 2007 and showed how this activity strengthened BPW and Young BPW in Germany and additionally positioned (Young) BPW with a relevant topic in public.

Burcu Bahar Gogus did inform us in depths about the **projects of Young BPW Turkey** with Co-Foundation from EU, the obstacles, the project-Management, the outcome. The main aim of “Pace for Employment and Assurance for a Respectful Life-PEARL Project” is to support young girls who are living in orphanages away from family love and concern. They should be enabled to participate to active business life, in order to avoid them to fall in a disadvantageous position considering their coeval fellows. Vocational training programs are planned to increase the young girls’ employment capacity. On the same time, these trainings are supportive elements to develop self-confidence and strengthening a good citizenship consciousness, psychological support, counselling services and social activities compose the main components of the program. **PEARL Project is the first EU Project of BPW Ankara and it is very important to show that other BPW Clubs can involve these kinds of EU projects if the necessary background is provided.**

**It was incredible inspiring to hear what one can do – if you know how to apply for EU-money!!!**



**Young  
BPW Europe**

**HR-points:** It was declared that Ms. **Burcu Gogus from BPW Ankara Club** will apply for being appointed Young BPW Europe Representative and, Ms. **Nadia Munawar Siddiqui** will apply for being elected Young BPW International Chair.

We expect full support for both candidates and wish them all the best!

Then, we had the official Roll-Out of the **re-launched Young BPW Europe Website**, which Ms. Balensiefen Young BPW Representative for Europe, has done recently.

### **Summary, Ideas & Possibilities**

These points were crucial to me to make it a good Weekend

1. We had time to get to know each other and exchange our opinions
2. The Program was not too long and too exhausting
3. The costs were quite affordable

**We would recommend offering such Weekends on a regular base to connect Young BPW on European level. We believe that, through these kinds of activities, Young BPW start long lasting friendship and also share ideas, power and motivation for realizing our great ideas, common projects and fruitful cooperation – this to guarantee sustainability within Young BPW**

Another point is, that we obviously have **great expertise among us regarding EU-Co-Foundation for projects**, of which BPW and Young BPW could make great use. For example, if we would offer a training on how to prepare and apply for such a co-founded project.

Finally, we would like to thank all participants from all over the Europe, who made our programme valuable and effective and hope that this Weekend Activity will become the first one of the beautiful weekend chain in Europe!

With best regards from

&

**Viktoria Balensiefen**  
Young BPW Representative for Europe  
2005 – 2008

**Burcu GOGUS**  
Young BPW Representative  
Ankara Club Turkey