



**Young
BPW Europe**

**Review from my visit at the National Conference of
BPW Austria, Oct 13th – 15th 2006**

I was invited to join the National Conference of BPW Austria from President Silvia Dillinger-Brigl and Vice-President Michaela Muschitz-Fink. We thought about this already in summer and I was very happy that we decided that I should offer a Workshop on how to (acquire) new young members.

My mission was clear: make BPW Austria want to have Young BPW.

Read in this report, what did work out ...



Already for the arrival day, BPW Austria has planned a wonderful and unique program part: we were invited to meet the **National President of BPW Austria, Mr. Heinz Fischer** at the wonderful Hofburg of Vienna. Thank you, Ute Fuchs, for using your valuable contacts also for BPW.

Silvia Dillinger-Brigl presented BPW Austria and BPW in general. And even me, I had my small tiny slot to have a short **motion on Young BPW**. This was an incredible experience to talk to such a well known politician!



Very interesting were the words from Mrs. Gaugl, Head of the Presidents Office. She pointed out, how important Networking, Mentoring and Lobbying were to her personally and to her career. Later, a touristguide of Hofburg talked about former power and the ancient queen, how she lived and reigned. Mrs. Gaugl showed to me and some other BPW colleagues the back rooms, were the “real political power” of today acts.



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On **Saturday** the National Conference started and I had the chance to become familiar with many members and local Clubs. That was a very good and worthy experience.

After Lunch, **my Workshop about Young BPW** did start: with my twelve participants we spoke about

- Advantages on having the Young BPW program in a Federation for the Club and the existing members
- History of Young BPW
- Young BPW in Europe: what we are doing, where we meet
- Different Young BPW programs in different European BPW Federations
- Materials and Information on how to start
- Structures: how Young BPW can be embedded in the Federation and local Clubs
- How to achieve commitment in the Clubs to “allow” young members
- Profiling: what are the perfect new members, where to find them and how to interest them. And: what do we want them to do within BPW?

To my great pleasure, my audience was not only listening but discussing intensively. During the break I meet Marion Klotzberg, a young member from Vienna Cosmopolitan on the floor and asked her only by chance: “what about you – what do you think about Young BPW”. From this starting point we had a short but intense chat on why she is absolutely pro Young BPW but not really able to do much for this by private and job reasons.

But nevertheless: all in all we had a fruitful afternoon – and I was sure, that the seed “Young BPW” could become a wonderful flower. There was so much conviction, power, interest, commitment.



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After an easy and relaxed Saturday Evening at a “Heurigen” in Vienna, Sunday came and that was the final day of the Congress where we all presented the results of our workshops. I was not expecting any miracles, but was satisfied with the results of Saturday and the very good onside-discussions during the Congress with many Austrian members.

You can image, how I felt, when **Marion Klotzberg** found me and explained, that she was so much convinced from Young BPW and the need of having Young BPW in Austria – so much convinced, that she came on Sunday although she did plan different as she had guests at home. And she told me that she would like to take the chance to be **the first national Young BPW Representative for Austria.**

Not only this, but then **Christiana Schneeweiss** stood up to name herself as local Representative for Salzburg and **Ilona Glinka** did the same to act for Linz.

Young BPW did start in Austria!



I missed words because I was so happy –and could only smile smile smile. And same did Silvia Dillinger-Brig and the rest of the Board and the local Presidents.

On the picture you see fltr:
Viktoria Balensiefen, Christiana Schneeweiss, Marion Klotzberg, Siliva Dillinger-Brigl, Ilona Glinka.

Later, Ute Fuchs announced that she offers BPW the opportunity to produces and broadcast TV-spots for BPW in Austria in 2007 – incredibly exciting. This surely will guarantee a high attendance and recognition within potential members.



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Let me end this short report with a picture from me and Michaela Muschitz-Fink. Michaela did work so long for BPW in Austria and was for a long time already preparing the ground for Young BPW. So this success is also yours, Michaela.



Special thanks to BPW Austria and to Michaela Muschitz-Fink and Ute Fuchs, who did organise so much and so well! Thank you, BPW Austria for hosting me so well!

With best regards from Bonn,

Viktoria Balensiefen
Young BPW Representative for Europe
2005 – 2008