

EUROCHAMBRES Women Network survey underlines financial and work-life balance challenges for female entrepreneurs

A EUROCHAMBRES Women Network (EWN) [report](#) published today reveals that accessing finance and ensuring a good work-life balance remain key issues to address in order to facilitate female entrepreneurship across Europe. It emphasises the need for effective policy initiatives to untap the full potential of female entrepreneurship at a time when this is needed more than ever.

Persistent obstacles

The report, presented to and discussed with members of the EUROCHAMBRES Women Network during an online conference today, is based on 1.500 responses from across Europe. Commenting on the survey and the discussions during the video conference, EWN President, Martha Schultz, said: *“The findings worryingly underline the persistence of several significant barriers to increased entrepreneurial activity among European women. It’s frustrating that in 2020 women entrepreneurs still seem to find it harder to access finance and encounter more acute work-life balance challenges than men.”*

Women must be part of the COVID-19 recovery equation

The EWN online conference brought together women entrepreneurs from 15 countries. The discussion revolved around the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on their businesses and how this affects the conditions for women to start and run a business.

Turning to policy solutions, EWN members perceive that EU initiatives in the past to stimulate female entrepreneurship have scratched the surface of the issue without having a significant or lasting impact. This must change, according to Ms Schultz: *“Women entrepreneurs were an untapped source of European growth before the COVID-19 crisis. This was not sustainable then and is even less sustainable now. The potential of current and future women entrepreneurs needs to be fully harnessed as part of the recovery process and the EU can play a key role in this process.”*

EWN members called on the European Commission to work with the Chamber network to develop business plan tools and guidance on access to finance, to facilitate exchanges of approached between countries on work-life balance solutions and to invest in extensive cross-border training and mentoring schemes for current and would-be female entrepreneurs.

[EUROCHAMBRES Women Network Survey: A Picture of Female Entrepreneurship](#)

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