

A trip to Germany – 18-19-20 May 2014

With Anaïs Fernandez, DaraKyslitska and PatriziaPapitto

I was very privileged to be invited to share the workings of the European project “E-Chance for Women Entrepreneurs” on what can be done to encourage women entrepreneurs in Europe. This subject enjoys “triple A” status for me as a woman, as a European and as a senior who believes that 60 – 75 is just the right time to be creative and put our lifelong experience to good by generating an activity that will either help younger people on their way or even create jobs.

We were well received by M. Paul Held, scientific director of the Innovation in Learning Institute at Fürth in the Nuremberg metropolitan area and his team. I enjoyed the installation and seeing the many projects they showcased.

It was very enriching to meet with the German delegation and with the members from Turkey. I particularly enjoyed speaking with Prof DemetBayraktar, Ph.D. and Chair of the Department of Business Administration at the Faculty of Management and Administrative Sciences of the SuleymanSah private University.

I found the presentation of the motivation behind women’s entrepreneurial spirit interesting: in France and Germany independence and flexibility were more important than making money, in Turkey, the need to make money was the top motivation.



Paul Held, Dar and Prof DemetBayraktar



Logos of innovative projects.

I found the following information of value. It was in a recent statement made June 9, 2014, by Ms Marie Contreras-Sweet, new head of the US Small Business Administration:

Women-owned businesses have grown by a remarkable 20 percent in just five years. More than a quarter of our small businesses are now owned or led by women. Currently, women entrepreneurs are considered under-represented in only 83 of the 260 industry categories, limiting their ability to receive federal set-asides. We believe the explosive growth of women-owned businesses will show that many additional industries should be added. So I've instructed my staff to conduct a formal study required for the SBA to re-visit the contracting landscape to ensure women have optimal access to the federal supply chain. Another important tool for federal agencies is sole-source authority. I'm encouraging Congress to give federal agencies this tool to level the playing field for women-owned businesses.

From a general cultural point of view:

The trip was very agreeable, well organized and the sightseeing tour with our passionate guide, a senior history enthusiast trained by professional guides, was an eye opener. As he said, it is extraordinary to think that centuries of proud history were defiled in 13 years of Nazi rule.



Our amateur guide enthused us with his passion and knowledge of Nuremberg.



We saw the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and came out of the Documentation Centre stunned. It was just before the European elections and it is difficult to imagine that anyone can doubt the importance of building Europe.