European Meeting Deputies & National Representatives

Split Croatia
18-21 September 2025

Group 4
Motivate and grow

8 Group members

- Sofia Kutsopapa, Germany
- Iclal Kardicali, Turkey
- Maria Nikolidaki, Greece
- Nathalie van den Gruben, the Netherlands
- Christine Bauer, Austria & Czech Republic
- Ingrid Haggards, Sweden
- Birgitta Salmen, Sweden
- Pia Helkio, Finland

I. Evaluation of the current situation

Reasons for decreasing club member numbers

Demographic challenges in Europe

- Aging population
 - e.g. average age in Sweden 78 years old average age in the Netherlands 74 years old.
- Longer life expectancy

decreasing mobility of older members leads to declining enthusiasm in participation.

Demographic challenges in Europe

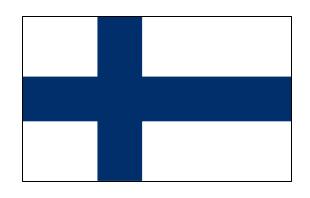
- Shrinking birth rates
 limited selection of middle-aged women
- Working women time factor
- •Single mothers lack of support

Challenging daytime meetings

• Inconvenient day time meetings. e.g. in Germany and the Netherlands are aging and lack new membership.

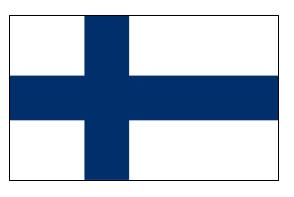
Greece: Rhodes Island

- Members interested in hands-on service and local charity activities.
- Reward = Exposure and support through local media.
- Global goal: negative impact on smaller communities.



- Common projects seem important
- Teamwork in small groups within the meeting:
 - -discussing projects.
 - –planning upcoming vacation (8 journeys to Europe + visiting local clubs).
 - -planning charity projects.
 - -taking care of international contacts.

Finland



- Becoming more visible in the local communities.
- Cooperation with different womens' clubs to organize common activities (Sweden).
- Sitting arrangement during the meetings: new and old members. mentors for every new member.

The Netherlands

- The second door: daytime clubs start organizing private evening meetings in order to create a parallel evening club.
- Host invites fun, enthusiastic people.
- Recruitment takes place from family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues, Rotary and other female clubs.
- Dual participation possible in both morning and evening club.
- Meetings should always be fun!



Sweden

- Contact and recruitment with universities.
- Probational 6 months membership for middle aged guests.
- Feedback after 6 months could lead to new members.
- Send meeting report to a free weekly journal in the village.
- Build curiosity in the local community.

Turkey

- Dynamic IW Clubs only on the west coast: total number 21 (14 in Istanbul, 6 in Izmir)
- New generation clubs: average age 30-40 years old 30% founding members 30% professionals 30% new generation
- After work meetings for a drink

- Fun and relaxing meetings.
- Sharing personal information with all members.
- Determine members' needs and act spontaneously.
- Minimize speeches by external speakers.

- Enable interaction in small groups within the meeting according to people's interests.
- Don't focus on obligations at the beginning of membership.
- Encourage participation, don't force it.
- Allow long probation period before becoming a Club Governing Body.

- Have common local outdoor activities.
 e.g. company / local social projects visits.
- Theater and movie evenings.
- Boat trips / city sightseeing tours.
- Museum visits.
- An annual holiday trip for the members abroad.
- Weekend hiking, skiing, spa holidays.

- Have several members organize different activities according to their abilities.
 e.g. exercising sessions, guided city tours, handicraft and cooking sessions.
- Every club member should be involved.
- Hands on activities increase motivation and strengthen friendship.

Benefits for members

- Opportunities to increase their networking for professional women.
- Opportunities to improve their skills with new technology.
- Opportunities for continuous learning in order to prevent stagnation.
- Increase working opportunities after empty nest.

IV. Opportunities for growth through E-Clubs

- Meeting format
- Meeting frequency
- Members
- Recruitment

- Online via Zoom
- •1, 2 x monthly flexible
- Worldwide
- Global

IV. Opportunities for growth through E-Clubs

- Costs
- Projects

- Flexibility
- Technical skills

- Lower than traditional clubs.
- Planned online, conducted with local partners + local clubs.
- High.
- High + reliable internet connection.
- Personal gatherings
 Seldom, max once or twice a year.

Recruiting E-Club members

- Within your personal network.
- Through social media.
- Target group: young professionals, expatriates (skilled professionals from affluent countries, retirees, artists who have chosen to live outside their native countries).



Thank you for your attention



Sofia Kutsopapa, Germany and the wonderful motivated European Team from Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Austria, Greece and Turkey

Sofia Kutsopapa Deputy Germany 2025/26