

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Event Report

Roundtable: 'Leading by Example: Women's Leadership in Inclusive Finance'

15 NOVEMBER 2023

Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg



On 15 November, WIL Europe organised a Roundtable and Networking Cocktail in partnership with **ADA** and **Innpact**, as part of **European Microfinance Week 2023** hosted by the **European Microfinance Platform** (e-MFP). Held at Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg, the event was filled with insightful exchanges from the women paving the way in making finance more inclusive. The discussion was moderated by WIL Board Member **Nathalie Wright**, who kicked off the session, before exchanges between **Raffaella Assetta**, Head of Unit for International Affairs at DG FISMA, European Commission, **Jenny de Nijs**, Head of Sustainable Finance at the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance, **Aude de Montesquiou**, Global Facilitator at FinEquity, **Silvia Oquendo Cortez**, Regional Manager of HR at Banco FIE and **Paola D'Angelo**, Associate Director and Head of Sustainability and of Independent Directorship Services at Innpact. The roundtable was followed by a networking cocktail commemorating the late Corinne Molitor and celebrating the launch of ADA and Innpact's initiative, Sunflower Seeds.

Roundtable
Discussion

Q&A session

Networking
Cocktail

135 participants

Exchange with Speakers

WIL Board Member **Nathalie Wright**, Non - Executive Board Member of Keolis and Quadient, made opening remarks and exchanged with the speakers on women's leadership in the inclusive finance sector as the moderator of the rountable discussion.



Aude de Montesquiou shared how FinEquity believes practical strategies can be implemented to promote diversity and leadership development within financial services, following the publication of their Knowledge Guide on the topic. Highlighting key data, she also showed how female representation within companies can lead to improved products for women, and the ways in which financial institutions can leverage this for better inclusion.



Raffaella Assetta then elaborated on the role of the EU and governments in promoting gender balance in financial institutions and outlined why female representation in these organisation sis so important, following the adoption of the EU women on Boards Directive 2022. She outlined how diversity and inclusion strategies can be leveraged to get more women working in the sustainable finance sector.



Jenny de Nijs spoke about her role in chairing the Gender Finance Task Force at the Luxembourg Finance Ministry, aiming to support, drive and stimulate gender finance in Luxembourg, a hub for gender lens investing. She spoke about how this has empowered female entrepreneurship in Luxembourg and could be applied in other countries. She elaborated on the link between female leadership in the financial sector and the achievement of global sustainability goals



Silvia Oquendo unpacked Banco FIE's award-winning Marca Magenta initiative which aims to empower women's leadership, preventing violence and providing equal opportunity access through inclusive finance. As a HR professional she delved into the importance of female representation in leadership positions in order to achieve the objectives of inclusive finance, highlighting the effectiveness of tools and processes that have been implemented in Bolivia to advance the cause of women's leadership and their prominence in decision-making roles which could be applied elsewhere.



Paola D'Angelo closed the discussion by paying tribute to the late Corinne Molitor, formerly a partner at Innpect and President of ADA. She unveiled ADA and Innpect's 'Sunflower Seeds,' initiative ensuring this legacy will continue through empowering women in the financial inclusion sector.

Q&A & Networking Cocktail

The audience, made up of over 130 participants, including WIL attendees and experts from the financial inclusion sector and other fields then had the opportunity to put their questions to the panellists.

Following the roundtable, guests were then invited to attend the evening networking cocktail, which celebrated the launch of Innpect and ADA's new initiative, Sunflower Seeds. This was an opportunity to reflect on the powerful legacy left by the late Corinne Molitor and for guests from WIL to expand their horizons making connections in the microfinance sector.

