

### **3 Cooperation, Partnerships**

Finding and using **SYNERGIES by cooperation and partnerships is imperative**

#### **3.1 Cooperation with other women's organizations**

BPW cooperates with different partners on local, national and international level. To establish a successful partnership a clear goals is important. Any cooperation out of helplessness is not worth the invested energy.

A successful cooperation between the international presidents of the five organizations International Council of Women, Soroptimist, University Women, Zonta and BPW International, the so called “5-O”, existed for many years. Unfortunately it came to an end due to a very narrow minded decision. The pretext was that the service clubs offered money and the “non-service” organizations got their financial support for common projects. The reasoning is absurd as a decision that the non-service organizations will not get involved in common projects anymore due to their absence of financial contributions, would had solved the problem. The “5-O” Presidents met annually before the UN CSW and discussed not only common projects, but also common motions for UN. In addition the meeting of the 5 international Presidents of five international women's organizations was a very valuable platform for the exchange of experiences and common strategies. **A new cooperation should be found** with presidents and organizations that are farsighted enough to understand the high value of such cooperation. It is not about convincing women who cannot see the value, but connecting the ones who are ready to see the common benefit of cooperation.

#### **3.2. Cooperation with political organizations like UN and its numerous agencies, EU, AU**

The consultative status of BPW International at the UN gives members the opportunity to have access to certain UN conferences and projects. This is an **added value to a member** who is interested in a certain issue, as UN conferences cannot be attended by private persons. The annual CSW in New York offers members very valuable workshops about different issues from experts around the globe which are all free. BPW International has appointed a representative at each important UN place.

BPW Switzerland offers an annual budget to the BPW International UN Geneva representative to put together and to publish regularly on the website the most interesting conferences which are accessible to members. The UN representative at Geneva takes care of the registrations and the BPW who attend UN events.

**SPECIAL administrative TASK** (freelancer with fix contribution)

An **UPDATED LIST of UN CONFERENCES** which can be attended by members at the places where BPW has a UN representative should be published on the website and members should have the opportunity to register.

#### **Cooperation regarding common PROJECTS**

UN and Global Compact

ITC and business and further education opportunities

### 3.3 Cooperation with Governments

Depending on the political culture of a country, a BPW Federation can work very close with the government and obtain funds for specific tasks.

For years BPW Italy obtained funds for women's trainings which was very successful. A few years ago BPW Germany obtained important financial contributions for the "Equal Pay Day".

### 3.4. Cooperation with men's organizations

The cooperation with men's organizations empower women and men. Empowered women know the male behaviours and learn how to deal with.

On the local level many Clubs cooperate successfully with Men Clubs in their locale. A list of successful cooperation would help interested Clubs or Federation to copy success stories. **Task for a committed member:** Collecting a list of the cooperative men's organizations which are reported in the Annual Reports of the Affiliates and also collecting examples during international congress. Putting together a report and guidelines for the cooperation with men organizations would be very helpful.

BPW International cooperates in a project with Rotary International

Cooperating **with men's networks or inviting male leaders to important events** on all levels can be very fruitful for common projects and is great promotion for BPW.

A former CEO of General Electric mentioned that men, in fact, are curious to know what women are doing in their networks, even though they do not admit their curiosity openly.

### 3.5 Cooperation with private Women Organization

Cooperation with private initiatives of women like the "Global Summit of Women" is very valuable. Such events offer a good platform for good contacts and interesting conferences.

A meeting with more than a dozen Diversity Managers was an eye opener. Showing their good will but not having serious discussions, some companies appoint very weak personalities as Diversity Managers. These women are very proud to have such a position and accept thankfully to support everything they are requested to do.

Another example of cooperating with women's organizations would be professional associations, such as female lawyers and doctors.

### 3.6 Cooperation with institutions which work on equal opportunity

**Universities, research centres** deliver important results. Having BPW inform about important findings on our website would be valuable.

#### **Foundations e.g. "Equal Salary Foundation"**

Foundations work on very specific issues and provide important contributions.

### **Private institutions**

Institutions like the “Catalysts” or the “World Economic Forum Davos” publish extremely valuable results as they investigate no theoretical but very practical issues.

Having a contact to such an organization is important for BPW, as they publish very helpful papers.

**SPECIAL TASK:** A list of organizations and the respective BPW contact persons would be an important tool. This person would inform BPW International about interesting results of researches which bring valuable impulses. Being such a “Link person” would be an ideal task for a 50+ - member who is motivated to do such a job. Such “Expertise” could be administered by the PILOT “Member initiated Taskforce & Projects” and the Executive Board could profit from the connections.

*Dr. Antoinette Rüegg, Zürich 2018*