



## **WEgate, new platform ‘opens doors’ for women entrepreneurs**

*Brussels, 30 September 2016* – [WEgate](#) is a unique pan-European gateway for women’s entrepreneurship in Europe launched by the European Commission during an event in Brussels.

Setting up a business is tough enough at the best of times, and women entrepreneurs often face unnecessary hurdles when it comes to financing, sourcing information, networking, training, and reconciling business and family pressures.

This is why the European Commission has set up an [Entrepreneurship Action Plan](#) with concrete actions to support entrepreneurship in Europe.

Within this plan, the specific action for women entrepreneurs is focusing on the creation of an e-platform for women’s entrepreneurship. WEgate is finally out!

WEgate’s mission is to put all the possible tools at their disposal, to make setting up a business much easier.

The platform combines information and resources needed to start and grow a business. It offers inspiration, peer-support and networking possibilities. It acts as a hub not only for women entrepreneurs but also for policy-makers, stakeholders and supporters.

### **It makes economic sense, too**

Entrepreneurship is a driver of innovation, jobs and growth, as well as social integration. Here, small and medium-sized enterprises play a key role, creating 85% of all new jobs in the European Union. But **only around 30%** of start-up entrepreneurs are women.

The gender gap has narrowed in recent decades, but at this slow pace of change, according to the latest [‘EU Report on Equality between Women and Men’](#), “it would take another 70 years to achieve gender equality”.

And yet studies indicate that a better gender balance in business could boost the economy by as much as 5%. So gender equality is no longer just a question of fairness; Europe needs diversity to be more competitive.

### **One-stop shop ... no, really!**

It is too easy to blame the disparity on fear of failure, education, stereotypes and so on. WEgate aims to help women overcome the hurdles to entrepreneurship. It puts the much-needed entrepreneurship tools into a single, elegant package, which is easy to find and easy to use – a one-stop shop for anyone who feels lost in the maze of EU legislation, websites and pages.

WEgate is also a vibrant gateway for women entrepreneurs to exchange information and find answers to their burning questions, ranging from starting and growing businesses (including financing/funding, legislation and innovation), to placing products on the EU market, staffing, expanding abroad, developing export markets, and much more.

WEgate provides inspiring stories, peer support and mentoring, as well as links to local organisations working on women’s entrepreneurship. **It really does open doors!**

*Note to editors:*

Women’s Entrepreneurship gateway: [www.wegate.eu](http://www.wegate.eu)

Contact us for more information, photos, introductions, story ideas: [wegate@esn.eu](mailto:wegate@esn.eu)