

## **International conference of Inventive and Innovative Women in Tallinn, August 2002**

On August 30, 2002 QUIN-Estonia organised an international conference for inventive and innovative women in Tallinn, Estonia. Twentyfive women from

eight countries Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had gathered to discuss intellectual property rights, support systems for inventors in the Nordic countries, establishing business enterprises to implement innovative ideas, the activities of QUIN (Qvinnliga Uppfinnare I Norden). etc.

### **The main aim of the conference:**

**To introduce practical experiences of the QUIN-women in the Nordic countries on developing female entrepreneurship with the help of innovative activities.**

In the conference took part Mr. Farag Moussa, the president of IFIA (International Federation of Inventor´ Associations) and his wife Mrs. Laurence Deonna, recognized journalist in 120 countries.

**Chair of the Tallinn City Council Mrs. Maret Maripuu** underlined in her opening speech the necessity of networking between women from different countries in the Baltic Sea Region which has lots of prospects for promoting female employment, entrepreneurship and business.

**Chair of the NCM Information office in Tallinn Mrs. Kalli Klement** said the Nordic countries will continue supporting women´s undertakings and the Baltic-Nordic network in the future too.

**Innovation** is the key for the economical development of Estonia, said the vice-president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences **Mrs. Ene Ergma**.

Presentations by **Mrs. Maila Hakala** (QUIN-Finland) and **Mrs. Viive Rosenberg** (Estonia) focused on the increased need to raise awareness of innovativeness, to widen the possibilities for women entrepreneurs through the introduction of best practice cases of idea solution, exchange of experience and new ideas.

The participation of **Mr. Farag Moussa, President of IFIA** in our conference gave additional value to the conference and helped attract media attention to our conference. Whereby informing the Estonian public of the event and women´s innovativeness.

Intellectual property rights are becoming increasingly important and necessary for Estonian business community stressed **Mrs. Monica Laur**, vice-director of the **Estonian Patent Office**.

### **Topics of the presentations of QUIN representatives:**

**Elinora Inga Sigurdardottir** and **Gudrun Saemondsdottir** (Iceland),

**Margareta Johanson** and **Edda Torisdottir** (Sweden),

**Sanne Frederikke Beyer** (Denmark),

**Anne-Mari Rannamäe** (Estonia) were:

- Intellectual property rights
- Support systems for inventors in the Nordic countries
- Establishing business enterprises to implement innovative ideas
- The activities of QUIN
- Practical cases of innovativeness
- Developing QUIN web-site
- Future co-project "TUULIA" in the Baltic states (creativity training for women)
- Using the IFIA web-site to introduce their inventions
- Development of the QUIN network in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and North-West Russia

**Conclusion of the conference:**

- It helped to identify why the creativity of women as a powerful resource continues to be inadequately used for the benefit of women themselves and for societies
- It helped to familiarize Estonian and other women from the Baltic Sea Regions with the achievements of Scandinavian women inventors encouraging them to take up innovative activities
- It gave ample opportunities for exchanging best practice and hence provided stimuli for developing female innovativeness
- It led to the enlargement of the QUIN-network from Scandinavia to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and North-West Russia proof to which is the signing of an agreement between the Wroclaw (Poland) creative women's organisation and QUIN-Estonia
- It was decided to jointly explore the market and promote the creation of an environmental supportive of innovative women in the Baltic Sea Region countries so as to stimulate female entrepreneurship and co-operation in the field of business
- It gave an opportunity to introduce the QUIN web-site, teach how to access information on the Internet. A presentation outlining the Iceland system was made by Elinora Sigurdardottir and Julius Valsson.

**QUIN-Estonia expresses its most sincere thanks to the Nordic Council of Ministers and to the Estonian Ministry of Economics for financing the conference in Tallinn.**