

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS ON THE WAY

Thirty women have just completed a Polish chamber crash course on setting up their own business.

The Luxembourg-Poland Business Club recently completed its first ever Entrepreneurial Woman Project. This six-week course had the objective of giving Anglophone women in Luxembourg the opportunity to learn about setting up their own business in an English speaking environment within a relatively short timeframe.

The 30 women chosen from around 100 applicants delved into a wide range of business topics for six hours every Saturday ranging from "idea generation" and "networking" to "taxation" and "fundraising". The course--held at the University of Luxembourg Limpertsberg campus--drew from the knowledge of several successful businesswomen such as Lea Linster, owner of three top class restaurants in Luxembourg and recipient of a Michelin star.

ENGLISH DEMAND

Renata Niekraś, an LPBC board member and organiser of the course told *Delano* that the whole thing would not have been possible without the support of partners like the American chamber of commerce and the patronage of both the Luxembourg ministry of economy and the Polish embassy in Luxembourg. Polish women who move to Luxembourg are "in most cases fluent in English but not in French," Niekraś explained. Bearing in mind the lack of English speaking courses in this sector, the club wanted to "give an opportunity for people to have a crash course on starting up a company, for mums wanting to rejoin the job market or people with a great idea who don't know where to start." Niekraś first came to Luxembourg in 2008 and is a working mother herself, so she feels she speaks from "first hand experience."



BUSINESS SEMINARS

A. Mandy Patrick hopes the project will be repeated

B. Renata Niekraś was impressed by the international composition of the course takers

Anna Dober, another Polish mum and one of the participants, told *Delano* that she "wanted some insight into the business sector in Luxembourg" and felt that the course was "very good and to a high standard." As another non-French speaker, she said that this course was a "big enabler" to her and her future business plans.

The course, despite having quite a few Polish participants, was quite international, which "was a surprise," according to Niekraś. Other course takers ranged from a Mexican engineering manager and a Ukrainian finance specialist to a student from New Zealand.

It also included Mandy Patrick, originally from Britain, who has already started up her own company, called Red Squirrel Services. The firm provides administrative and "back office" support to any sort of firm from start-ups to already well established enterprises. She took the course because it "never does any harm to refresh your knowledge." In her view, "it should definitely be done again."

Niekraś stated the club is indeed planning on having another such course in 2015, and that "it will be even better." <

LUXEMBOURG-
POLAND
BUSINESS CLUB:
WWW.LPBC.LU