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DEBUTING

Newsletter

2 / 2026

Welcome to the DEBUTING Final Event!

**Shaping Inclusive Innovation Ecosystems:
Policy Approaches for Gender Equality,
Diversity and Competitiveness**

Location: Delegation to the EU of Emilia-Romagna Region, Rue Montoyer 21, Brussels
When: 25 November 2026, 09.30 – 18.00 hrs

After four years of interregional cooperation, the Interreg Europe DEBUTING project has generated valuable policy insights that led to change, action plans and good practices aimed at strengthening gender equality and inclusivity in innovation and entrepreneurship. This final event will present key lessons learned, highlight impactful initiatives, and foster dialogue between regions, countries, EU institutions and peer projects.

Join us in Brussels on 25 November 2026 to get inspired by impactful experiences and discuss how to scale them across Europe!

[Read more](#)

Policy Recommendations and DEBUTING Report Published!

As part of the interregional exchange of experience of DEBUTING, under the coordination of **Karlstad University** as advisory partner and

Region Värmland as Lead Partner, the partners provided detailed input on their experiences related to the exchange of experience activities and the policy change process in their own regions. These contributions were the foundation for a report on exchange of experience processes *"Learning Together: Experiences and Lessons from the DEBUTING Exchange Process"* and the now published set of policy recommendations.



[Read more](#)

Gender Equality in SMEs - From Overlooked to Essential

Gender equality and diversity drive competitiveness — yet they are still widely overlooked by companies and policy makers. Because of gender imbalance, European companies are less innovative, they struggle to attract talent, miss market opportunities, and are ultimately less competitive than they could be. What if we could create better conditions through more effective policies that support inclusive and gender-equal companies? This is the story of DEBUTING.



[Read more](#)

RoboTech Girls Transylvania - Implementing DEBUTING Pilot in Romania

The pilot action, implemented by North-West Regional Development Agency, has successfully engaged over 200 school girls in digital and technical fields with the aim to increase girls' interest in STEM education and careers. Simultaneously, the pilot implementation provides valuable



insights for future policy development, including the integration of gender-sensitive approaches into regional funding instruments.

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DEBUTING Partners Meet in Budapest - Cluster Development Day

On **17–18 March 2026**, Budapest hosted the International Cluster Development Day and the DEBUTING Partner Meeting, bringing together international cluster representatives, policymakers, and experts to exchange knowledge and strengthen cooperation. The event took place at the **Mercure Budapest Castle Hill**, providing a dynamic setting for dialogue on cluster development, innovation, and inclusion.



[Read more](#)

Gender driving innovation: new call in Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Gender equality continues to gain relevance within regional innovation and competitiveness policies in Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy. A new call was launched under the ERDF Regional Programme 2021–2027 with a total budget of €3 million, encouraging companies to invest in quality, governance and organisational development with a special focus on gender equality certification.

[Read more](#)

Final event in Navarre, Spain: Gender Equality in Competitiveness

Navarre has concluded the European project DEBUTING, aimed at promoting gender equality in the industrial sector, and is now entering a follow-up phase to continue fostering equality based on the lessons learned from the other 11 regions that participated in the project. This was highlighted during the event held on 6 March at Baluarte, Palace of Congresses and Auditorium of Navarre, attended by around 80 participants and titled *Emplea en Femenino / Emakumeak Empleguan*. The meeting aimed to share best practices, challenges and inspiring experiences in gender equality as a factor for business competitiveness.

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