

NEWSLETTER

EDITION SWITZERLAND

Ladypol – the association.

2011 founded, following the model of European Network Policewomen ENP, the network of Zurich city policewomen has developed within two years into a well working association.



An exclusive network for women creates the opportunity to establish contacts that help advance in jobs. In addition, it is possible to offer seminars, workshops or conferences that are tailored to women and their specific needs. Often it is easier to exchange amongst people of the same gender, particularly in male dominated domains like the police service.

All these considerations flew into an article of Olivia Derungs in the employee magazine of Zurich's City Police (Stadtpolizei). The female readers were encouraged to form a network within their organisation. The response to this call was relatively small; nevertheless the motivated women could soon after officially launch the association "Ladypol". What was already reality on European- and national level became reality for Stadtpolizei Zürich.

Once a month, the women of Ladypol meet for an event that is organised by one of the members. It could be an informal gathering over a glass of wine, a speech about emergency psychology or an exchange with the leader of the human resource department of Stadtpolizei. In addition, once a year the members meet for the annual meeting. Aim of Ladypol is to allow for a straightforward exchange amongst the members, as well as arrange for exchange of expert knowledge within the female community.



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A central element of the network is the homepage, which is accessible only for members of Ladypol. Here you can find not only information about current activities, but also portraits of all women, including information about their professional expertise, hobbies, private- and also business relevant contacts. The women can mutually profit from the available information and use the strengths of the network in an optimal way.

Of the about 300 female police officers within Stadtpolizei Zürich, about 10% are actively participating in the Ladypol network. On a first sight, this number might appear small, but considering the fact that the association is rather new, the members are convinced to grow within the next few years. Finally, the women deserve a strong, well-organised voice within the Stadtpolizei that represent an important fraction of the employees in a strong and competent matter.

Christine Calderoni

ENP Germany e.V. initiates networking women in leading positions

Susanne Dirkorte-Kukuk, cashier of the ENP Germany e.V. and state coordinator of Nordrhein-Westfalen invited women in middle leading functions or special functions to a first meeting. Seven interested women participated and talked to each other in the interesting local ‚Rohrmeister‘ in Schwerte. Jasmin Dunkhorst lectured shortly about the topic ‚women and health‘.

As different the women are, as different are their functions: Service group leader, guard duty leader, equality commissioner, leader of further education, press spokeswoman. Everybody agreed that networking is very important beyond border authorities despite different roles. Many women do the same or similar experiences in professional every day. Although proportion of police women rises, women are rarely in leading positions or special functions. To network wider it is planned to meet again with women of higher management level in 2014.

ENP Germany e.V. will organize the event to enable participation of for all women in leading positions. Presumably, the interest of some women will arise concerning ENP Germany.

Susanne Dirkorte-Kukuk