



*"We have started 2012 full of new projects and renewed enthusiasm, and with this re-designed newsletter!"*

*WiTEC has a long history and a long way at work and promotion of women in the world of technology. We want to keep working on this and that is why we remain confident that we need to work for greater incorporation and awareness for women in the world of technology, engineering and science.*

*So in this year, all institutios and organizations that are part from the Association we intend to communicate our interest and work to ensure compliance.*

*With the beginning of this renewed newsletter, all representatives of the countries that are part of WiTEC will talk about the projects that we are working on and will share information and opinions.*

*Witec partners are:*

Technikon Research Ltd. - Austria  
Gender-Institut Sachsen-Anhalt (G/I/S/A) - Germany  
Tallinn University of Technology. - Estonia  
EDEM- GreekWomen'sEngineeringAssociation - Greece  
Università di Bologna/Facoltà di Economia - Italy  
Stichting VHTO - Netherlands  
Plataforma Enlaces - Spain  
Center for WorkingLifeResearch&Development - Sweden  
Inova Consultancy - UK (President of WiTEC)

*(check out our partners information in [WiTEC's website](#)).*

*You can also follow news and activities in our website and social networks".*

**Margarita Artal**  
*WiTEC Secretary*

## **EDEM** **WiTEC GREECE**

***Energy: Employment, innovation & entrepreneurship opportunities for Greek Women Engineers***

The Greek Women's Engineering Association (EDEM) has focused in energy issues (Renewable

energy sources, energy saving, bioclimatic architecture etc) as a field for occupational chances, innovation and entrepreneurship since 2007 and has promoted these subjects among engineers, especially women engineers. In this frame EDEM organizes every two years an open conference on Energy Issues, which is well-known in the engineering community for the high quality of invited speakers, most of them being women specialized in this field.



The high participation rate in the last event, held in March 2011 and the fact that Energy is the only domain with development chances during the financial crisis in Greece, led EDEM to organize on December 15th 2011, an additional event with subject “Energy Saving in buildings” under the auspices of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. This event was again a great success thanks to the key speakers, the great turnout of participant engineers and the sponsors’ support.

By organizing events on technical subjects, EDEM spreads Clean Energy and environment sensitive techniques among engineers, especially women and promotes the professional work of women engineers to the public. Efforts are made to give the floor to specialized women engineers. Both are essential as women are the first victims of unemployment in crisis conditions, independently of their field of study and reality is getting cruel for the technical sector in Greece.

The next event organized by EDEM will be one devoted to Women’s Day, with the title ‘Woman & Occupation’ and will take place in Athens on March 8th 2012.



## **INOVA CONSULTANCY** **WiTEC UK (PRESIDENT OF WiTEC)**

On behalf of WiTEC, Inova Consultancy from the UK and Artau Coordinacio from Spain are currently involved in a European project called “SET4change - Entrepreneurship for women in Science, Engineering and Technology” with partners from Italy, Portugal, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The project is implemented with the support of the European Commission and aims to raise awareness about social enterprises as potential career paths for females in SET. In order to explore how these women could be encouraged to set up their own social enterprise, experts in the

field of SET, entrepreneurship and gender equality will join forces to investigate social enterprise as a tool for career progression.

The first workshop took place in October 2011 in Madrid and was a great opportunity for all involved to get to know each other. We discussed the concept of social enterprise and its definitions in different European countries. We soon discovered that it was not at all easy to agree upon one definition and that there are significant differences to what extent Europeans value the social impact of a business. While the British and Swiss attendees found that social targets were considered to be very positive in their home countries; Spanish, Italian and Portuguese participants pointed out that women working in social areas were rarely taken seriously by society. Accordingly, social enterprises contributed a considerable and increasing share towards economic growth in the UK and Switzerland, which did not seem to be the case in Southern Europe. Representatives of these latter countries also reported that the legal framework made it very hard for people to set up their own business, as such a step generally required a lot of time, effort and money.



All in all, this workshop has been very enriching for all participants and we hope to come up with valuable ideas on how to increase the attractiveness of social enterprises in Southern Europe and how to inform female scientists and engineers all over Europe about the advantages entrepreneurship, and especially social entrepreneurship, can offer them. For more information and to follow the project progress, see [\*\*SET4CHANGE FB page\*\*](#).



