The project meeting in Paphos took place between 6th and 9th of February at St. George Hotel, where participants from Germany, Poland, Hungary and Cyprus engaged in a detailed discussion on the Project. The inclusion of the Cypriot partner in the project, in the position of a coordinator, gave the opportunity to partners to review the project goals and objectives.

Each partner country has elaborated on key issues that women are facing in their country and there was an exchange of information and experiences. For example in Ireland, women are isolated in rural areas and there is a need for support and training opportunities for them. There are some governmental and European initiatives that support the entrepreneurship of women in rural areas. Women that go to live in a big city and later in life return to their home town or a village is a source of innovation to the local community.

In Poland, there was an issue of women after they give birth and is difficult to return back to work because there is limited infrastructure in rural areas and it is costly to leave your child in a kindergarten.
while the salaries are very low. In addition, the mentality of women is also another factor since they believe that after birth they should dedicate themselves mainly to the child.

In Cyprus there are also several initiatives; but sometimes are more general in nature. For example, there are many day centers for elders where they can spent their time constructively which is mixed, but the majority is usually women. Moreover, there are programs such as Women’s entrepreneurship which funds with 50% the start up of businesses of women.

In Hungary, there are also similar projects of entrepreneurship where they help women to set up their own company, while it covers some basic set up costs. In Hungary, most of the problems regarding maternity leave, day centers, opportunities and obstacles are similar as in the rest of the countries.

The German partner gave information about the situation of women in Germany and existing opportunities for them, and then he proceeded in the presentation of a similar website, based on which our own will be build. He demonstrated certain function and possibilities that would be useful for the best presentation of our website.

The Cypriot partner also had the opportunity to summarize the main objectives of the partnership which will include study visits or workshops in host countries, development of internet infrastructure for project products and for communication among women or organizations in rural areas; the
development of a manifesto on the purpose of our project and the foreseen network; and the last main task will be to create local activities in the member countries which they could possibly be disseminated at local level and our website infrastructure.

The partnership also discussed several issues such as the communication problem because some partners do not answer in timely manner or not answering at all. As a result a person will be designated from each institution to be responsible for communication. The Cypriot partner will also provide a short work plan timetable in order to improve management effectiveness and so partners will all know what they have to do and when is due to be done.

After Lunch, partners had the opportunity to visit several UNESCO cultural heritage sites, such as the archaeological zone with mosaics, the medieval castle and the tombs of the Kings. Moreover, they had the chance to visit the Catacomb of Agia Solomoni. After the cultural tour by the harbor, the group had a coffee break at a local café at the beachfront.
In the second working day, the focus was shifted on a field visit in the rural areas of Paphos, where participants had the opportunity to see women working in rural areas, maintaining local museums, or running their own enterprises. On Saturday morning the participants visited the Museum of Evagoras Pallikarides in Tsada, a national hero of resistance against British rule, which is maintained by a woman living next door. The second visit took place at the Museum of Folk Art and Tradition in Kallepeia, where old tools and household items used by women and men are kept. The museum showed different works that women had to do in order to provide food and clothing for their family.

The third visit took place at Mrs. Christallas workshop in Lemona Village where they saw the traditional production of Halloumi cheese. She keeps the tradition of producing Halloumi cheese, while at the same
time she has a job that provides an income for her and her family. Participants had the opportunity to
taste fresh Halloumi cheese with bread, and they also bought some to take back to their country.

The next visit was to an Equestrian Club, where Mrs. Marlen in Amageti manages her horse farm.
Marlen is from Canada and as a foreign woman in Cyprus she managed to create her own business. The
working visit ended in Lemona, at the winery Tsaggaridou where a family Cypriot company passed from
the father to the children, Lukia and Angelos who keep the family tradition alive. The participants were
given a tour in the winery and they cooked for us a Barbeque and distinguished Cypriot mezes; while we
tasted Cypriot wines. After we had our lunch we returned back to the town where our field visit and the
official program ended.