

# VVAO Triennial Report

2007 - 2010

The past triennium, the **Nederlandse Vereniging van Vrouwen met Hogere Opleiding (VVAO)** continued to be a lively, dynamic association with approximately 4.000 members in 32 active branches all over the country. These branches organized many activities such as lectures, excursions, musical evenings, etc.

We also had a few important changes in the VVAO. We don't have our own office including staff anymore. Many administrative tasks are computerized. The rest is done by a external administration office.

There were changes in the Board, and we welcomed our new President prof.dr. Anneke van Doorne-Huiskes.

In 2008 we celebrated our 90th anniversary in Rotterdam. For this special occasion we published a book about the 'Way to the Top' of successful professionals.

Unfortunately we were confronted with a decreasing number of members. We are working on strategies to stop this tendency, and to become more attractive for new members.



*Prof.dr. Anneke van Doorne-Huiskes*

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

Life long learning is one of our main themes. We started a new trainingprogramme with many workshops and courses of interest for high educated women. Female Leadership, Professional Organizing, Social Media are a few examples of the subjects of these workshops.

Besides empowerment of our members, these workshops are attracting many potentially new members.



## MENTORING

The Mentoring Working group worked very hard in the European Mentoring Project together with UWE members Finland and Turkey. This project was financed in the European Union Gruntvig Program for Life Long Learning. At the IFUW Conference in Mexico City, our member Angeline Joordens will present a workshop on this project.



Education and Culture  
Lifelong learning programme  
GRUNDTVIG

Several VVAO branches started their own local mentoring projects. Some are especially for new members, others are for professional women. Angeline Joordens can inform you about the different mentoring activities in the VVAO.

## SEMINARS

Since 2007, the Board and a group of members, organize an annual national seminar.

In 2007 the theme 'The Power of Networking', was introduced by Heleen Mees, a well-known Dutch columnist. Several successful members shared their experiences in networking with us.



Sophie in 't Veld

'How can the VVAO contribute to Europe?' was the title of the 2008 seminar. The previous UWE President Willemijn van der Meer, Member of European Parliament Sophie in 't Veld and a previous member of the Dutch European Women's Lobby contributed to this informative day.

Our Young Members and the Board organized the seminar in 2009: 'What moves 30-ers?'. Various subjects such as 'Authenticity', 'Delayed motherhood', 'Career-shifts', and 'Choices, choices, choices' were discussed in workshops and panels.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to hard work of our ICT Working group, we have a new website. This website is a very important tool in our internal and external communication.

Our VVAO Magazine also got a 'facelift':



## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

We have a group of internationally active members, who like to participate in (online) activities of UWE and IFUW.

We were very happy to participate in the annual UWE meetings with many members, including a small group of Young Members.

We will be present with a delegation of 21 members at the IFUW Conference in Mexico City.

In 2009, we organized a friendship tour for a small group of Canadians. They were welcomed in Amsterdam, Arnhem, Deventer, Den Bosch and Haarlem. Members of these branches offered hospitality and organized culturally and culinary interesting activities for their Canadian guests.

## **ADVOCACY**

We attended several expert meetings for the CEDAW Shadow Report in 2008 and 2009.

The VVAO is an active member of the National Federation of Women's Organizations (NVR). Most of our advocacy work is through this organization.



*Dr Fernanda Wessels*

*CIR: VVAO*

*July 2010*