

Tuesday, September the 18th, 2017



is back after a fantastic week in Iceland, with the official launch of WSI and its first project : **junior women empowerment**.

Women at the World Seafood Congress 2017

The organizing committee for the congress made a commitment to gender equality in terms of attendance as well as in the speaker line-up. Of the 139 speakers, 50 were women – a much higher percentage than in prior fisheries/seafood related events.

A dedicated session “**Role of Women and Social Impact**” documenting the important work done by women in the seafood industry was chaired by WSI president.

<https://wsc2017.com/2017/06/27/role-of-women-and-social-impact-of-seafood/>

The World Seafood Congress 2017 was inaugurated by the Minister of Fisheries Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir who called on everyone involved in seafood “*to do what they can to overcome the gender gap that remains in the sector. It will benefit us all – men, women, the seafood sector as a whole. So please let’s all take significant steps to fix the gender gap*” she said.

Empowerment programme for young women from Galicia, Spain/ University of Vigo



Aware of the gender inequality prevailing in the seafood industry, the Escuela Universitaria de Estudios Empresariales (EUEE) from VIGO major fishing port and capital of a seafood community decided to address the issue and took a concrete step forward with the help of WSI. The EUEE has created a grant to bring three students of the Master’s in International Commerce to the World Seafood Congress in Reykjavik in

September 2017. Thanks to the perseverance of its director Emilio Garcia Rosello and deputy director Araceli González, the support of the Gender Equality Unit of the University of Vigo, and the generous and decisive economic support of the Provincial Council of Pontevedra, the project has become a reality.

After a very tight selective process, Mariana Toussaint, Carmen González and Sofía Lorenzo, all of them graduated from the Master's in International Commerce of the EUEE and professionally linked to the fishing industry, have been selected.



WSI prepared for them a very dense programme. It included the attendance of the World Seafood Congress, where they participated in a round table on the situation of women in the fisheries sector.

They met and interviewed prominent seafood professionals of which Erla Björg Guðrúnardóttir CEO of Marz Seafood, Marcus Coleman CEO of Seafish UK, Gudny Karadottir the Director of Food, Fisheries and Agriculture Division at Promote Iceland (Islandsstofa), Leonie Noble, President of the Fisher Women Association in Australia and many other accomplished professionals.

Within the Icelandic Fisheries Exhibition they discussed with professionals and asked them to fulfil a questionnaire "Putting Gender Equality on the Agenda on the Seafood Industry".



Last but not least, they talked to Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, Icelandic fisheries minister who had expressed interest in this program and insisted to meet personally the three young women! She gave them invaluable advises: *"Don't stay in the corner. Speak out and don't worry to be wrong sometimes. The most important is that you express your opinion."*

Prestigious hosts

On the WSI's colourful stand Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir the Minister of Fisheries, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson the president of Iceland, Alexander Mora, the Minister of foreign trade of Costa Rica have been presented the situation of women in the industry and discussed with WSI team about the situation in their own country. They agreed with the Minister who called to *"bridge the gender gap and to do more to close the gender inequality in the seafood industry"*.



Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson le président d'Islande sur le stand de WSI

Survey: “Putting gender Equality on the Agenda”

During this week in Iceland, WSI has collected tonnes of information including first answers to a survey “Putting gender Equality on the Agenda of the Seafood Industry”. The survey will be distributed all through September and October, including at the CONXEMAR fair. The results will be compiled and will be taken into account by WSI when defining its future actions.

WSI thanks all its sponsors who facilitated the official launch of WSI during this special seafood week in Iceland: [FAO](#), [Seafish UK](#), [The Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries](#), [Promote Iceland](#), [MSC](#), [Clearwater](#), [Reynaud-OSO](#), [GAF](#), [JC David](#).