

WOMEN LEADERSHIP FORUM



in cooperation with



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

WOMEN.IN.FINANCE

Closing the gender gap and boosting women in finance

September 18th 2019 | Novomatic Forum

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PROGRAM

www.womenleadership.at



Julia Palte | Partner EY Innovalue

“Part of the transitions process of the financial sector is a cultural change: new leadership styles, innovative / modern ways of working, new methodologies as well as the attitude towards making mistakes and trying new things are becoming more important. New roles and tasks arise. The transition results in a (natural) change of established structures and networks.”



Markus Pilz | Chief Product Owner, Hutchison Drei Austria

“Agile management means to leave the comfort zone of established hierarchy, decision processes and leading methods, which won’t appeal to everyone at first sight. But aside from supporting your company in a transformation process, you will newly-discover your position as a leader and broaden your personal horizon.”



Selma Prodanovic | Founder & CEO 1MillionStartups

“What you see, you can be!
Role models are crucial for success. In my 30 years of business creation experience, I’ve seen that giving women more visibility and showing their expertise is key for positive change.”



Monika Racek | CEO ADMIRAL Casinos & Entertainment AG

“Diversity is no image topic!
It is an undisputed fact that gender diversity leads to better results. Diverse management teams strengthen the innovative power of a company in a sustainable manner. Thus it is important to communicate the economic relevance of this fact!”



Sonja Wallner | CFO A1 Telekom Austria AG

“We as A1 Group understand and embrace the power of diverse teams and we have already started to use it – besides me there are numerous women in C-level positions within several subsidiaries of our Group. The reason why is very simple: We are convinced that mixed leadership teams – also diverse teams in our whole company – are better at coping with a variety of challenges of today’s business world. Mixed teams work more efficiently and achieve better results because of the interaction and combination of different skills and capabilities.”



Stanislas Zeze | Chairman of the Board of Directors & CEO Bloomfield Investment Corporation

“I am certain that women have proven and continue to prove that they are contributing a great deal to the transformation and the evolution of the financial sector in particular and the world leadership in general. It is certainly time for the talk on equal opportunity for woman and men in all sectors of economic and political activities and in all domains in life for that matter to be effective. I am convinced that if men realize that women are their best partners in the betterment of human kind, they will definitely change their attitude and fully embrace the notion of equality between woman and men.”



Lisa-Marie Fassl | Managing Director austrian angel investors association

“Female-led companies need female investors to reach their full potential. Unfortunately, we still see way too little women investing actively - not only in startups. Changing this should be on top of the agenda, otherwise we will never reach gender equality.”



Kasia Greco | Vice Deputy Head Frau in der Wirtschaft Wien

“Governments and businesses continue to introduce initiatives to get more women to the top. Yet that progress remains slower than it should be. It’s one thing to mandate or recommend representation of women to the board level or C-Suite roles. But it’s much more difficult to address the systemic inequality as it includes much more than the business world—it’s broader and more complex, and with that comes a lot of polarization.”



Andrea Gritsch | Managing Partner Wolf Theiss

“Dramatic changes drive our nowadays business. Digitalisation seems to be the mantra in most industries. Key players driving change range from start-up companies to leading and established market participants. Mastering the challenges and monetizing the opportunities of new technology requires continued innovation, collaboration and a diversified approach. Prime time for female talent to be at the forefront of trailblazer projects and cutting-edge solutions.”



Michaela Huber | Member of the Board ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG

“The proportion of women employed by the ÖBB Group is 13 % of the overall workforce and around 12 % of its managers are women. My aim is to empower women in management positions even more. Because I’m convinced that when we have a diverse management team, then we can better understand and consider the needs of our equally diverse passengers.”



Gudrun Meierschitz | Member of the Board ACREDIA Versicherung AG

“I have experienced that women usually pursue a more holistic approach of decision making. This is also true for investment or funding decisions. Female investors might be a bit harder to attract and convince at first, but later on they are more likely to become strategic and enduring investors, not merely financial ones focusing on quick wins.”



Christiane Noll | Country Manager Avande DACH

“The financial services sector is more competitive, high-performing and open than ever. The industry has never seen more disruption. New challengers and advanced technologies are changing the market structure. Simply becoming a digitally version of itself isn’t enough. We have to rethink the financial services business, find strategies to succeed.”

PROGRAM

10.30 – 11.00 REGISTRATION

11.00 – 11.15 WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

MODERATION: Sonja **Kato**, Managing Director unikato communications

Renate **Altenhofer**, Initiator Women Leadership Forum

11.15 – 11.25 REMARKS

H.E. Trevor D. **Traina**, Ambassador of the United States of America to Austria

11.25 – 11.45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Gender & Finance – opportunities, challenges & risks: Closing the gender gap and boosting women in finance

Anna **Zelentsova**, Strategic coordinator of the World Bank – Russian Ministry of Finance Financial Literacy Project

11.45 – 12.05 MASTERCLASS: Gender, risk & finance: the financial sector in transition

Stanislas **Zeze**, Chairman of the Board of Directors & CEO Bloomfield Investment Corporation

12.05– 13.00 TOPIC I: The financial sector in transition – who dominates the future?

SESSION CHAIR: Christiane **Noll**, Country Manager Avanade DACH

PANELISTS: Andrea **Gritsch**, Managing Partner Wolf Theiss
Julia **Palte**, Partner EY Innovalue
Martin **Spona**, CEO Lendo AT
Stanislas **Zeze**, Chairman of the Board of Directors & CEO Bloomfield Investment Corporation

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 14.30 MASTERCLASS: Agile Management in response to future challenges

Doris **Perg**, Author, Entrepreneur & Agility Management Specialist

Chris **Berndt**, Senior Agile Coach

BEST PRACTICE: Markus **Pilz**, Chief Product Owner, Hutchison Drei Austria

14.30 – 15.30 **TOPIC II: Mixed leadership: Are you ready for a “SheEO or SheFO”?**
Successful companies rely on female know-how at the C-Suite level

SESSION CHAIR: Rita **Niedermayr**, Partner EY Advisory Services

PANELISTS: Million **Berhe**, Head of Africa Practice, Specht & Partner Rechtsanwalt GmbH
Kasia **Greco**, Vice Deputy Head of Frau in der Wirtschaft Wien
Michaela **Huber**, Member of the Board ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG
Monika **Racek**, CEO ADMIRAL Casinos & Entertainment AG
Sonja **Wallner**, CFO A1 Telekom Austria AG

15.30 – 16.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

16.00 – 16.10 **IMPULSE STATEMENT: “Protection against old-age poverty of women”**
DAMENSACHE STUDY

Marietta **Babos**, Managing Director Dr. Babos Consulting and Founder of DAMENSACHE

16.10 – 17.10 **TALK: Female investors and entrepreneurial finance – do women invest differently?**

SESSION CHAIR: Sonja **Kato**, Managing Director unikato communications

PANELISTS: Margaret **Childs**, Publisher & CEO Metropole
Lisa-Marie **Fassl**, Managing Director austrian angel investors association
Christiane **Holzinger**, Managing Director 360 Business Planer
Gudrun **Meierschitz**, Member of the Board ACREDIA Versicherung AG
Selma **Prodanovic**, Founder & CEO 1MillionStartups
Bibusa **Wißemann**, CEO and founder for SensXafrica Limited

17.10 – 17.30 **MASTERCLASS: The Mind Behaviour Gap - Behavioural Economics: the new discipline**

Sophie **Karmasin**, Founder Karmasin Research & Identity

17.30 – 18.30 **COCKTAIL powered by Schlumberger on ice**

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Veronika Peshkova
UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador

“Increasing women economic activity is the logic reaction on the opportunities and challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Moreover, full-scale involvement of women will provide an opportunity to add up to USD 28 trillion to global GDP by 2025.”



H.E. Trevor D. Traina
Ambassador of the United States of America to Austria

“As a former tech entrepreneur, I know there is a strong business case for gender diversity. In the United States, women account for 55 percent of the entry-level workforce in financial services. Despite this progress, women still represent

only one in five positions at the top level, so we have more work to do to achieve gender parity in the financial-services sector. That is why events like the Women Leadership Forum are so important – it gives us the opportunity to work together on this challenge, and on other issues facing women leaders.”

Renate Altenhofer
Initiator Women Leadership Forum



“In the financial sector, women are still less represented than in most other sectors, especially at the C-level. The lack of female decision-makers in the financial industry, as founders and investors is a loss for the whole economy. Closing the gender gap and strengthen women in all areas of finance is the key to economic growth. Following the SDGs 2030, together with our cooperation partner UNIDO we have succeeded to host the seventh WOMEN LEADERSHIP FORUM with female leaders and experts from Africa, Europe and the United States and to act as pulse generator with this internationally important cutting edge topic.”

Sophie Karmasin
Founder Karmasin Research & Identity



“Behavioral economics is a new approach to corporate governance based on analyzing and understanding human behavior. The difference between „what you want“ and „what you do“ is the so-called „Mind Behavior Gap“. The „The Mind Behavior Gap“ study determines individual value awareness and actual behavior. This „gap“ can have different reasons. The goal of behavioral economics is to better understand people’s economic actions and to support them in their decision-making in the best possible way.”