

Good Practice Example No. 5 - Hungary

VOSZ Women Entrepreneurs Section: Strengthening women's entrepreneurship through networking, mentoring, & knowledge sharing

Industry:	Entrepreneurship development consultancy
Location:	Csongrád-Csanád County, Hungary / all counties, Hungary
Established in:	2022
Legal form:	Association of entrepreneurs
Business model:	B2B (Business to Business)
Core activity:	Entrepreneurship development

The Women Entrepreneurs Section of the National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ) represents one of Hungary's most significant initiatives supporting women in business. Established to strengthen the representation, professional development, and visibility of women entrepreneurs and women leaders, the Section has developed a nationwide network that connects female business owners across different regions and industries. Its mission extends beyond traditional business support by creating a professional community where women can access knowledge, mentorship, inspiration, and advocacy while addressing the unique challenges associated with entrepreneurship and leadership.

Building entrepreneurial capacity through education and mentoring

A central pillar of the initiative is the continuous development of entrepreneurial and leadership competencies. The Section regularly organizes professional events, educational workshops, mentoring activities, and networking opportunities that enable participants to exchange experiences and gain practical knowledge. Particular emphasis is placed on leadership development, business growth, access to current market information, and the sharing of good practices. Through mentoring and knowledge transfer, experienced business leaders support emerging entrepreneurs, helping them avoid common business pitfalls and accelerate their professional development.

Creating a nationwide network of women entrepreneurs

One of the most innovative aspects of the program is its extensive regional structure. The Women Entrepreneurs Section operates through county-level groups across Hungary, providing local platforms for collaboration while remaining connected to a national network. This structure enables entrepreneurs from different sectors and regions to build partnerships, exchange expertise, and identify new business opportunities. Programs

such as the “One Hour, Two Counties, Four Businesses” initiative and the recently launched “Women Entrepreneurs Podium” series provide opportunities for women-led enterprises to showcase their activities, strengthen their visibility, and expand their professional networks.

Advocacy, community building, and women’s leadership

Beyond business development, the Section serves as an important platform for advocacy and community building. It represents the interests of women entrepreneurs at local and national levels while promoting greater recognition of women’s contributions to economic development. The initiative encourages collaboration rather than competition, creating a supportive environment where participants can openly discuss challenges, share experiences, and learn from one another. Through this approach, the program contributes not only to individual business success but also to the development of stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems and more resilient local communities.

Strengthening community with local food competition at VOSZ Csongrád-Csanád County

The good practice is further strengthened by the active work of the VOSZ Women Entrepreneurs Section in Csongrád-Csanád County, established in Szeged on 5 June 2025. Operating from the VOSZ Business Development Office in Szeged, the group supports local women entrepreneurs through regular professional workshops, networking events, leadership development programmes and entrepreneurial panel discussions. By creating opportunities for peer learning, business cooperation and community building, the section contributes to strengthening the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. Events such as the “Doing Business with Heart” year-end business forum have highlighted the importance of social capital, collaboration and continuous learning for SMEs, while also connecting experienced entrepreneurs with young talents and educational initiatives. During the event, a Christmas cookie competition was organised, where participants with a passion for baking entered the contest by bringing a plate of homemade pastries or cookies. The treats were evaluated by a jury, while the Community Award was presented to the entry receiving the highest number of votes from the attendees. This locally driven, community-based approach demonstrates how targeted support structures can enhance entrepreneurial resilience, inclusion and long-term regional development.

Key lessons and practical implications

The VOSZ Women Entrepreneurs Section demonstrates that successful entrepreneurship support requires more than financial resources alone. Access to professional networks, mentoring, education, and peer support can significantly improve

the chances of business success, particularly for women entrepreneurs. The nationwide structure of the initiative shows how local communities can be connected to create a larger ecosystem of collaboration and knowledge exchange. For students and future business leaders, the program illustrates the importance of social capital, lifelong learning, and inclusive leadership in promoting sustainable economic development and entrepreneurial growth.

Source: <https://www.vosz.hu/hu/tortenetunk>

<https://www.vosz.hu/hu/hirek/szivbol-vallalkozni2025>