

## NEWS

### **Gender equality at work would raise GDP by 5% (IMF, 2013)**

Over 40 professionals in the world of education, politics, culture, social sciences and economics took part in the **Women's Summer University** from 6 to 10 July, which Cornellà Town Council organised in Citilab, in conjunction with the University of Barcelona. This eighth edition was also made possible thanks to the participation of 120 women who attended both as individuals and representing different organisations, associations, etc.

Women's empowerment throughout history was brought to light through various conferences, round tables and workshops. The coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network took part in the course "Economy for the Common Good", delivered by renowned experts who include **Prof. Christian Felber**, creator and promoter of Economy for the Common Good and **Anna Mercadé**, renowned advisor to the European Union on issues such as the creation of women's companies and women's management skills, and Director of the Observatory Women, Business and Economics (ODEE).

The conclusions resulting from the week's work were manifold. On the one hand, according to the study **The Global Gender Gap Report 2014 (WEF)**, women increasingly occupy positions based on their own merit in almost every sphere, but there is still much to be done so they can secure positions in areas such as the economy and business management.

Another study conducted by **Harvard University** also reveals that companies that have more women on their board of directors are more financially solvent. Women manage budgets more effectively and do not apply for so many loans. Moreover, they yield greater profits, are reputed to be more ethical and are less inclined to run into debt.

**Mixed boards of directors yield 56% more profits. Gender equality at work would raise GDP by 5% (IMF, 2013).** Read the discussion note.

Maden Castillo, advisor and holder of an MA in Gender and Communication, outlined the ten strategies for female leadership, which include "being visible", "showing initiative" and "establishing women's networks".

Rocío García, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Culture and Equality, ended the conference by stating that "women's alliance is what makes us strong".