

NEWS





## **Mashhad promotes women leadership in urban life**

Thursday 10/03/2016

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the Municipality of Mashhad organized a workshop entitled "The Role of Women in Urban Life", which aimed, on one hand, to reestablish an Iranian Women Network gathering women city councilors, many of them recently elected in their municipalities, and, on the other hand, to encourage them to be more active in the international arena. A total of 52 participants, some of them representatives of the member cities of Mashhad, Karaj and Shiraz, attended the workshop.

The forum featured a morning session on the first day with institutional presentations and, during the rest of the program, participatory sessions with the focus group format. Each team identified needs, problems and challenges related to the selected subject and proposed project-oriented solutions for the next year.

Here are some of the suggestions raised by the groups:

<b>GROUP 1: WOMEN, FAMILY AND CITY</b>	
MAIN PROBLEMS	MOST VOTED PROPOSALS
Low quality of Halal products for families	Quality monitoring by women for Halal products
Lack of public understanding of what are healthy women's social activities	Public awareness of healthy women's social activity
<b>GROUP 2: WOMEN AND URBAN GOVERNANCE</b>	
MAIN PROBLEMS	MOST VOTED PROPOSALS
Lack of knowledge about women's capacities	Advocating for women's capacities
Barriers in planning and supporting women	Barrier removal in planning and supporting women
<b>GROUP 2: WOMEN AND CITY'S ECONOMY</b>	
MAIN PROBLEM	MOST VOTED PROPOSAL
Poor quality of city products & services	Monitoring quality of city products & services by a women's network

In order to ensure the implementation of these suggestions, as well as to share doubts, difficulties, and successes, other forums will take place in the following months in other Iranian cities.

Following this first meeting, an internal women network has been established with five committees focusing on the challenges facing women:

1. Governance and urban management
2. Urban Economics
3. Family and Culture
4. Urban Planning and development
5. Climate change and Urban Environment

These committees will continue working online between forums.

You can read the final report of the workshop by visiting the website of Mashhad's International Scientific Cooperation Office (ISCO).