

## AURORAS ACTIVITY FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATE IMMIGRANT WOMEN HAS BEEN FOUNDED BY THE FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN IN FINLAND

*Seven university graduate women in Helsinki have developed a new activity from the Let's Read Together network. In this new activity Finnish and immigrant women get to know each other and practice the Finnish language in supportive environment. The target of the new group is to help integrate immigrant women into Finnish society where education connects women.*

Auroras is the first multicultural community for university educated Finnish and immigrant women. University Women in Finland is the pioneer in this kind of activity. The Auroras network will start in January in Helsinki. In the first meeting EVP, Human resources Kerttu Tuomas from Kone Oy will speak about Women and work life and managing director Piia-Noora Kauppi from the Federation of Finnish Financial Services will talk about Women in European work life.

Let's Read Together network is based on volunteering work. This network has grown rapidly and works through traditional group work. It supports effectively immigrant ladies in learning the Finnish language and integrating into Finnish society.

- "Through this network we have noticed that university graduate women would like to have wider opportunities to network. They would like to get opportunities to speak Finnish, gain knowledge of Finnish society and primarily to find Finnish speaking contacts" emphasizes **Henna-Maija Syrjälä** who is the coordinator for the Finnish Federation of University Women in Finland and Let's Read Together network.

Interaction in the Auroras meetings will be two-fold: University educated immigrant women will get deeper knowledge of Finnish work life, improve their language skills and their opportunities to get employed to tasks that correspond to their education. In turn, Finnish women will have opportunity to get acquainted with interesting women in this multicultural environment and support their efforts to integrate into Finnish society through their own networks. These meetings will be held both in Finnish and in English.

- One challenge is to find all university educated immigrant women in Finland. Women do not necessarily work in tasks for which they are educated, may not participate in local communities or other activities outside of the home.

The themes in the Spring meetings will vary but the key message is employment. The themes will be women and employment, health care, entrepreneurship and the media's help for jobseekers. In addition to lecture meetings, Auroras will offer an opportunity each month to visit a company or association.

Auroras activities will start with its first meeting on 31.1.2012 in Helsinki, in the Europe hall of European Commission building, Malminkatu 16, starting at 17:00. Activities will expand next year to three other university cities in Finland. The Finnish National Board of Education, Finnish Cultural Foundation and University Women in Finland have all supported the Auroras initiative and it will be in cooperation with Womento-network.

More information about this activity can be received from the coordinator, Henna-Maija Syrjälä, tel. 045 1174282, [koordinaattori@luetaanyhdessa.fi](mailto:koordinaattori@luetaanyhdessa.fi), [www.auroras.fi](http://www.auroras.fi), [www.akateemisetnaiset.fi](http://www.akateemisetnaiset.fi).



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