

WEN



Women in
Economics Network



Establishing the Women in Economics Network in Australia: Sharing our experiences and insights

Presentation to the Irish Economic Society

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<https://esawen.org.au>

Sharing our experiences and insights



- What inspired us?
- How did we set up the network?
- What has worked well for us?
- What challenges did we face?
- How are we keeping momentum going?

Happy to take any questions!



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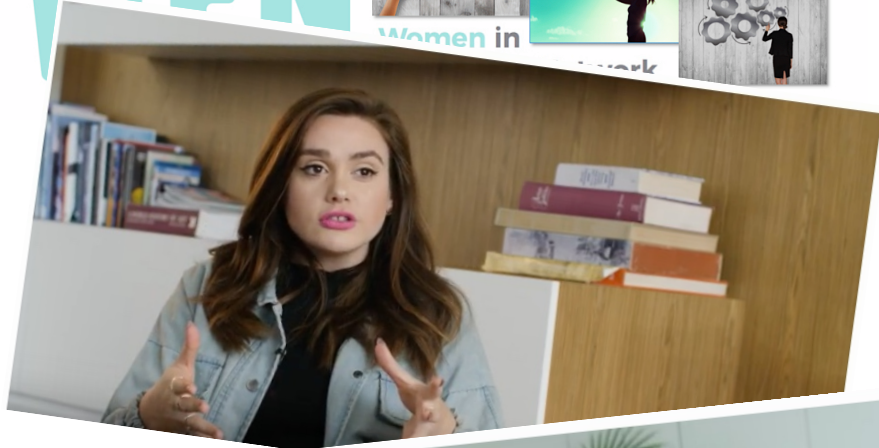
Women in



Work



WEN video for students
“Economics... Understand the World Around You”



What inspired us?



- Encouragement from senior female academics at initial mentoring retreat (diagnosis of problem and realisation of solidarity)
- Support from Economic Society of Australia (ESA)
- We looked towards similar groups internationally – CSWEP, CWEN, UK Royal Society of Economics Women’s Committee
- Broader social movements on gender equality and women’s rights
- Economic research pointing towards biases and barriers

How did we set up the network?



- Make use of existing structures and resources of ESA
- Broad scope – public sector, private sector, academia, education
- State branches and National Committee – Volunteer roles
- Part of ESA in Constitution – but need proof-of-concept first
- Funding support from ESA, membership fees, sponsorship, community grants
- Offer WEN membership as complimentary option with ESA membership

What has worked well for us?



- Multi-sectoral approach
- Event-based sponsorship approach
- Encouraging support and involvement from men
- Professional, paid admin support
- Pitch proposals in language and currency of economists
- Focus on what WEN is in a unique position to do and contribute (vs. addressing broader employment or organisational problems)

What challenges did we face?

How do we keep momentum going?



- Reliance on volunteer efforts
 - Teams, co-chairs, clarify expectations, appointment terms
- Too many ideas, not enough capacity! What is sustainable?
 - Pace program of activities and initiatives over time
- Some resistance to gender equality initiatives – reflects broader societal experiences → Learning from sociological & organisational psychological literature can really help

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ESA | The Economic Society
of Australia

Where can I find out more about WEN?

Website <https://esawen.org.au>

Twitter @WomenEconAU

LinkedIn Women in Economics

Facebook Women in Economics Australia

YouTube Women in Economics Network

Website <https://esacentral.org.au>

Twitter @AusEconSoc

**Wishing the Irish Society of Women in Economics
all the best from your Australian sisters!**



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