

# A renovated agreement between CZFB and INCYDE Foundation for organizing Barcelona Woman Acceleration Week

- Pere Navarro and José Luis Bonet, CZFB's and INCYDE Foundation's (Chamber Institute for the Creation and Development of Business) highest representatives respectively, have signed the collaboration agreement.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of BAW –a meeting point for gender equality at the social and work environments– will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
- This event is considered hybrid due to it will be possible to follow the 10 sessions and 50 speakers through their website or onsite –by invitation– at DFactory Barcelona.

**Barcelona, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.** – Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona (CZFB) and Spanish Chamber of Commerce's INCYDE Foundation have signed for the third consecutive year an agreement for joint organization of **Barcelona Woman Acceleration Week (BAW)**. This event is designed in order to reflect and materialize women's visibility at key areas of the economy, such as industry or logistics fields.

**Pere Navarro**, special delegate of the State at CZFB, and José Luis Bonet, President of INCYDE Foundation, have been in charge of signing this agreement. Both organisms have started the organization of an accessible platform where professionals from different industries would show their knowledge and experiences focused on gender equality.

**BAW** proposes a sharing of ideas and initiatives aiming to finding solutions and moving forward as a society in terms of breaking chains and boosting a greater presence of women at the work environment. This proposal is especially focused on the industries where women presence has been historically less.

Between the **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March**, **BAW** will look for breaking the figure of **2,500 participants** who were present the last edition. This goal is supposed to be achieved through gathering **50 top speakers** –national and international, men and women– in 10 panels for clarifying the process of reaching solutions that enable move forward gender equality within the business and industrial fields. This **hybrid** event will enable follow the **total of the content related to meetings and discussion panels** from any part of the world. The different speeches will be delivered at **DFactory Barcelona** ecosystem: this is the main hub of Industry 4.0 in southern Europe, focused on the creation of an

ecosystem that attracts talent, technology and investment in a unique space that brings together the most innovative companies, start-ups, innovation centres and laboratories. In its short path, DFactory 17,000-m<sup>2</sup> building is occupied at a 65%.

**CZFB** –through **BWAW**– works with the aim of achieving 2030 Agenda’s principles and commitments and implementing Sustainable Development Goals in the industrial field. Furthermore, this event is supported by the **Council for Women (Consejo de la Mujer)**. It was created in 2020 and represents 19 companies located at the industrial estate of Zona Franca and whom common goal is working towards gender equality within the productive area of the economy in the industrial environment.

**Pere Navarro** stated: **“Both institutions have in mind our common goal for working towards gender equality within the productive area of the economy. Thanks to this agreement, we are still promoting initiatives that highlight women’s talent on the work environment, and INCYDE Foundation has great experience within the Spanish business industry”**.

**José Luis Bonet** has also highlighted: **“Gender equality is a principle to work for on a daily basis. This renovated partnership is an example of commitment by both entities for raising awareness, educating, and especially work for reaching real and effective equality as soon as possible”**.

#### **About the Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona**

The Consorci is a public company fully financed by its own funds, which include industrial leases from the Zona Franca Industrial Estate Park and its asset management. Although its main field of activity is the industrial estate and its customs free zone, it also fosters the construction of buildings, urban and industrial land, acts as a driving force for business transformation towards the 4.0 economy and organizes events of economic interest for Barcelona such as the SIL logistics show or the BMP real estate show, as well as major benchmark events with an innovative format such as the Barcelona New Economy Week (BNEW) or the Barcelona Woman Acceleration Week (BWAW).

Its board includes representatives of the Spanish government, the Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona City Council, and the city's main economic entities.

#### **About INCYDE Foundation**

INCYDE Foundation (Chamber Institute for the Creation and Development of Business) is an institution who was created in 1999 by Spanish Chamber of Commerce and it is focused on promoting and training entrepreneurship, improving entrepreneurs' skills and helping to set up and consolidate businesses.

It is an effective instrument in terms of employment generation and the innovation and adaptation of SMEs to new markets. It has contributed in achieving the excellence of INCYDE's training programmes, as well as the opening of new business projects, as it provides a space where entrepreneurs can develop their entrepreneurial ideas.

Since 2000, 330 million euros have been invested by the Foundation to promote, support and consolidate entrepreneurs and companies throughout the country, always focusing on innovation and training as key tools.

181,114 people have taken part in its 3,958 programmes -with more than 985,400 hours of training-, which have contributed to the creation of 32,117 companies and the consolidation of another 42,000. As a result of the creation and consolidation of companies, more than 147,000 jobs have been generated.

The Foundation has also managed to set up the largest Network of Incubation Centres in Europe, developing 143 business incubators, 23 sectoral High-Tech Incubators and 26 Digital Co-working Centres. This network has incubated nearly 6,475 companies and has enabled the creation of 17,472 indirect jobs.

INCYDE Foundation's activities are in line with the ESF (European Social Fund) and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) programmes.

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