

Newsletter December 2010 on scientific culture and gender issues

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HIGHLIGHTS

We have the pleasure to announce the publication of our report Stocktaking 10 years of "Women in Science" policy by the European Commission, 1999-2009 condensing the activities and initiatives undertaken at EU and Member States level on "women in science" and "gender in research" along these years, underlining the achievements but also the recommendations to address the still existing gaps in the field.

The report is a key reference for all policy-makers, researchers, Member States representatives as well as for the wider public.

The publication is divided into 2 booklets: one main report and another one with annexes. It is user friendly and an electronic version is also available.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1622>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

[EU Framework Programme Evaluation and Monitoring](#)

The interim evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) was carried out by a group of experts and supported by an extensive base of evaluation evidence, including studies and statistics. Chapter 5.2 deals with gender issues and female participation rates. The expert group states a steady process towards a more balanced participation of men and women in FP. However, the Expert Group nevertheless calls for further efforts by the Commission along the present path, both in project participation and participation in various expert and governance entities.

Please see pages 44-46 in the report:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm

[GENDERA Database](#)

The EU project GENDERA produced a database of best practices to support female researchers which is now available at the project website, www.gendera.eu

There are 9 countries represented in the search engine, different economic sectors and it is possible to search also by type of initiative (according to different career development phase).

<http://www.gendera.eu/index.php5?file=12>

["Meta-analysis of gender and science research" Study](#)

The study provides an exhaustive overview and analysis of all research carried out on gender and science at European, national and regional levels. The research produced in all European languages from 1980 to 2008 was revised.

Reports are now available at the following website:
<http://www.genderandscience.org/web/reports.php>

"genSET" Gender awareness in research institutions

The University of Tromsø (UiT) announces that The Board of Directors has decided on a new gender action plan, which aims at raising the percentage of women in the highest academic category from the present 23% to 30% by 2014. The plan, resolved in a Board meeting on 14th October 2010, adopts the genSET Recommendations for Action on the Gender Dimension in Science as the guiding principles for UiT's gender equality work.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/genset-press-release_en.pdf

UN Women

In an historic move, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously on 2 July 2010 to create a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide.

The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women — to be known as **UN Women** — is a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women's movement. It is part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact.

On 10 November 2010, Member States took the next step in enabling UN Women to begin its work by electing countries to serve on its Executive Board. The 41 board members were selected on the following basis: 10 from Africa, 10 from Asia, 4 from Eastern Europe, 6 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 from Western Europe and 6 from contributing countries.

<http://www.unwomen.org/>

European Research Council (ERC)

The European Research Council (ERC) is awarding some €580 million to 427 early career top researchers in its competition for 'Starting Grants'. Worth up to € 2 million each, the grants will enable them to carry out their pioneering ideas in any field of research, throughout Europe. This is the third Starting Grant call since the ERC was launched in 2007 as a flagship component of the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme.

26.5% of the grantees are women, which is an increase from last year's 23%.

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Statistics_StG2010.pdf

Czech National Contact Centre for Women in Science (NKC)

After nine years of existence the Czech National Contact Centre for Women in Science (NKC) is launching an English newsletter. It will inform you about developments in the field of gender and science in the Czech Republic.

NKC is part of the Gender & Sociology department of the Institute of Sociology of Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

http://www.cec-wys.org/prilohy/2fe0192f45/NKC_newsletter_2010_1_final.pdf

Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015) adopted by the European Commission on 21 September 2010

Inequalities between women and men violate basic Human Rights. They also impose a heavy toll on the economy and represent an underutilisation of talent. Economic and business benefits can be gained from enhancing gender equality.

The Strategy for the period 2010-2015 builds on the experience of the [Roadmap for equality between women and men \(2006-2010\)](#). It is a comprehensive framework committing the Commission to promote gender equality into all its policies.

The strategy highlights the contribution of gender equality to economic growth and sustainable development, and support the implementation of the gender equality dimension in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

It follows the dual approach of gender mainstreaming and specific measures. For each priority area, key actions and detailed proposals for change and progress are described in an annex to the communication. 14 of the proposed key actions will be carried out by DG RTD, unit Scientific culture and gender issues.

Gender, science and technology - Paris, France, 28 September-1 October 2010

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2010-2014, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will consider 'Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work' as its priority theme during its fifty-fifth session in 2011.

In order to contribute to a fuller understanding of the issue and to assist the Commission in its deliberations, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW, now part of [UN Women](#)) in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) convened an expert group meeting (EGM) on 'Gender, science and technology' from 28 September to 1 October 2010 in Paris, France.

The EGM explored the gender dimensions of science and technology, and identified policies and programmes that can accelerate progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It examined strategies for:

- Increasing women's access to and use of technology, including more gender-responsive products
- Increasing women's access to and participation in science and technology education and training
- Eliminating barriers to women's participation in science and technology employment

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst_2010/index.html

Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative – Innovation Union

The Innovation Union aims at managing Europe's

- 1) major demographic changes and increasing global competition;
- 2) capacity to create millions of new jobs to replace those lost in the crisis and;
- 3) ability to drive innovation in products, services, business and social processes and models, by increasing Europe's competitiveness.

The IU requests member states to have strategies in place by the end of 2011, to improve working conditions for researchers and to promote attractive employment conditions in public research institutions, which include considerations regards dual career and gender. "The legal, financial and social frameworks for research careers, including doctoral studies, offer sufficiently attractive conditions to both men and women in comparison to international standards, especially those in the US. This includes favourable conditions for reconciling private and professional life and for professional development and training. There are incentives in place to attract leading international talent."

Moreover, the Commission will look for an additional performance indicator reflecting gender for inclusion in the IU Scoreboard. The Scoreboard will be maintained until 2020 and will be subject to review periodically depending on the availability of new data sources and/or new policy orientations.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

[2nd report of the European Research Area Board \(2010\) - "Realising the New Renaissance Policy proposals for developing a world-class research and innovation space in Europe 2030."](#)

One of ERAB's visions, broken down in concrete recommendations concerns gender and the participation of female researchers in European research:

"Building the European Research Area is a long and difficult task and for that we need a plan. ERAB's strategic vision is described in its report, 'Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance.' To put it in concrete terms, here we list 26 goals and 76 recommended actions which we believe to be important steps on the road to a united and innovative ERA by 2030. They are divided into four broad themes, corresponding to scheduled sessions in the Seville conference.

For all these milestones, we ask whether they are ambitious enough, and how they would be implemented."

ERAB's vision goal by 2030 is that "irrespective of age, race or gender, ERA should exploit all available talent."

ERAB's action recommendation: "Half of all scientists and research policymakers, across all disciplines and at all levels of the science system, are women."

http://ec.europa.eu/research/erab/pdf/erab-2nd-final-report_en.pdf

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

[Conference "gendered ways of knowing", Trento \(Italy\), December 1–4, 2010](#)

<http://gender2010.fbk.eu/>

[7th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education](#)

Bergen, Norway, August 29 - September 1, 2012

Please save the date. More information will follow.

Research Enquiries: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>