



European Research Area

The new logo for the European Research Area as launched this month by DG Research

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

As Brussels quietens down for the summer break, we ask readers to reflect a little on the EPWS policy theme for 2008, that of innovation. Having dedicated much of the Platform's policy activities in 2007 to highlighting the discussion around the notion of excellence, innovation has been the theme under the spotlight for 2008.

As part of two high-profile "Policy Forums" in Brussels which hold a number of discussions and events on different themes relating to innovation and how to boost it in Europe, (for more on these forums check our webpage www.epws.org) the Platform has suggested that innovation is not just about products but also about processes, about utilising all creative and innovative minds to optimal capacity and about accepting that diversity of both experience and workforce teams is of great benefit to innovation. Our theories have furthermore been corroborated by a number of recent studies to this effect. We would however love to get your feedback on the matter. What does innovation mean to you? While it is often considered to be that step from basic research to lucrative product is innovation solely a part of the business world? How can the scientific system help Europe be more innovative?

As of mid-August specific questions on innovation will be posted on our website, and we would be most grateful to hear back from you with your comments and ideas.

With regard to research policy, EPWS has once more received some more good news, with the appointment of EPWS to an expert board on "Women in Decision Making" set up and managed by DG Employment and Social Affairs, of which more is explained later in the newsletter.

Finally once again EPWS would like to thank all those who have informed us of events, activities and funding opportunities related to

science and research, your contributions are much appreciated and we encourage all members and readers to keep doing so.

Wishing all readers an excellent summer.

Maren Jochimsen
Secretary-General

EPWS appointed to new DG Employment and Social Affairs Board

There was more good news for EPWS recently when EPWS was given a seat on the European Commission's Network of Women in Decision Making. Unlike the ERAB board to which EPWS President Adelheid Ehmke was recently appointed (see last month's newsletter) this Network is run by DG Employment and Social Affairs which means EPWS now gets to speak at the highest levels in two different European Commission Directorate-Generals.

The 'Network of women in decision-making in politics and the economy' aims to provide a platform at EU level for successful strategies to improve gender balance in decision-making positions. Concretely, it will allow for exchange of ideas, information and experience, mutual learning and sharing of good practice. By facilitating partnerships and synergies between existing networks at European level, DG Employment and Social Affairs feels the group will provide a clear EU added value

The inaugural meeting, which was attended by EPWS Vice-President Brigitte Muehlenbruch, was opened by Equal Opportunities Commissioner Vladimír Špidla and by Zita Gurmai, Vice-Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström and Budget Commissioner Dalia Grybauskaitė were also present for part of the meeting.

EPWS is very grateful to DG Employment and Social Affairs for giving us the opportunity to be part of this prestigious network, filled with

representatives from a host of dynamic and diverse organisations, and for allowing us voice the concerns of women in research and suggest the possible solutions to their needs.

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=418&newsId=133&furtherNews=yes>

EC launches new user-friendly web portal for Researchers

On 24 June 2008, EU Science and Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik, launched EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion, the new brand overarching four initiatives for researchers to promote their mobility and career development.

The European Commission is intensifying efforts to promote the mobility and career development of researchers and thereby establish Europe as a leading area of excellence in scientific research. The objective of the Portal is to provide a single access point to information and support services which assist researchers and their families in moving to and pursuing careers in another Member State.

EURAXESS hosts the following initiatives: EURAXESS Jobs (former European Researcher's Mobility Portal) is a recruitment tool with constantly updated job vacancies for researchers throughout Europe; EURAXESS Services (former ERA-MORE Network) assists researchers and their families to organise their stay in a foreign country; EURAXESS Rights (European Charter & Code) sets out the rights and duties of researchers and their employers and EURAXESS Links (former ERA-Link) is a networking tool for European researchers working outside Europe (US, Japan)

Link to EURAXESS' website:

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm

First results of the ERC's Advanced Grants – low proportion of female applicants

A total of 2,167 proposals were received for the European Research Council's first round of Advanced Grants for which €517 million is on offer. According to the ERC President Fotis Kafatos *"after the first evaluation stage, we can see that the overall quality of the proposals submitted is really excellent"*, there is however a severe shortage of applications from female scientists. Although the applicants represent 50 different nationalities, linked to host institutions in 36 different countries, only 14% are women. Kafatos acknowledged this under-representation is an issue saying *"we are aware that the relatively low proportion of women applicants is a general problem in European research, especially in the target group of established researchers. This is a concern which the ERC will continue to address at every level"*.

Of the 2,167 proposals submitted 766 are in Life Sciences and Medicine, 997 in Physical Sciences and Engineering and 404 in Social Science and Humanities.

The top applicant is Italy, with almost 15 per cent of the applications, followed by the UK, France and Germany – together, the four countries account for 46% of the applications. The fifth placed country is Israel at just over 6 per cent of the total.

Block the date!

The EPWS General Assembly 2009 will take place in Brussels on 25 June 2009 with the Standing Committees meeting on 26 June 2009

We look forward to seeing all members there!

News from EPWS Members

1. The **14th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists – ICWES14** – took place from 15-18 July in Lille, France, under the patronage of the French Presidency of the EU. For three days over 700 people from 50 countries attended this lively conference, packed with high-profile speakers, which aimed to encourage women scientists and engineers from all over the world to meet and share their research and experiences. The Partnership Committee included Association Française des Femmes ingénieurs, Association Femmes et Sciences, Association femmes & mathématiques and Mission pour la place des Femmes au CNRS. **Congratulations to all who organised and took part in this very successful event !**

<http://www.icwes14.org/icwes14-en>

2. The **UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC)** just launched a spider network to weave equality into science, technology, engineering and maths Institutes. UKRC held a workshop this month aimed at professional bodies in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) interested in improving their equality and diversity practices. The network has been founded by the UKRC and its core partners; the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Academy of Engineering, under the name SPIDER (STEM Professional Institutions Diversity & Equality Resources).

http://www.ukrc4setwomen.org/html/news-and-events/news/?news_id=448

3. From 6-14 August 2008 the **European Federation of Geologists** are having their 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC): More information can be found at:

<http://www.eurogeologists.eu/cms/index.php>

4. From 12-15 August 2008 the **Commission on Gender and Geography, Israel** is organising sessions of the Commission on Gender and Geography at the IGU Congress 'Building together our territories', Tunis, Tunisia. More information can be found at: <http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/igugender/>

5. **Reminder!** The next Annual Meeting of *NorWiP (Nordic Network of Women in Physics)* will be held in conjunction with GenDADA – Workshop on Gender & Physics. The first day of the meeting will be dedicated to the NorWiP agenda, with physics lectures and workshops for physicists on 17-19 September 2008 at Uppsala University. The second and third days the program will consist of talks by invited Physicists and Gender Researchers with a specialization in physics. All interested in the subjects of physics and gender are welcome!

<http://www.physto.se/~pia/norwip2008.html>

6. The **Berlin Institute of Gender in Medicine (GiM)** invites you to the 5th Berlin Symposium "Sex and Gender in Medicine - Gender in Hospital and Medical Office", on the 11 October.2008. This year the symposium focuses on gender aspects in clinic and medical office. It strives to work out the latest scientific findings of gender research being important for the clinical work. The symposium shall above all be an information platform for exchange of the knowledge of clinical research and that of the practice in clinic and medical office. Renowned experts will guarantee excellent transfer of knowledge as well as vivid discussion. More information can be found at:

http://www.charite.de/gender/englisch/index_en.htm

Budapest wins contest to host EIT

Budapest has been picked to host the headquarters of the newly created European Institute of Technology and Innovation (EIT).

On June 18 2008 the 27 European research ministers supported the Hungarian capital's bid after Poland withdrew its bid to locate the office in Wroclaw.

"I'm very glad that we were able to take the decision as each day without the EIT seat is a day wasted," said Slovenian Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology Mojca Kucler Dolina, who was chairing the meeting. The decision represents the final step in deciding on the establishment of the EIT, and will enable it to start its work without further delays, the minister said. For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eit/>

New EC State Aid rules assist female entrepreneurs

At the start of this month the European Commission adopted a Regulation, which will come into force in the coming weeks, giving automatic approval for a range of aid measures and therefore allows Member States to grant such aid without first notifying the Commission.

The new Regulation authorises aid in favour of small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), research, innovation, regional development, training, employment and risk capital. The Regulation also authorises aid measures promoting entrepreneurship, such as aid for young innovative businesses and measures tackling problems, like difficulties in access to finance, *faced by female entrepreneurs*.

Aid for enterprises newly created by female entrepreneurs is a new category of state aid which until now had not been permitted.

For more information:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do>

[?reference=IP/08/1110&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://www.epws.org/?reference=IP/08/1110&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

BE HEARD AT EUROPEAN LEVEL, BECOME A MEMBER OF EPWS!

EPWS offers a vibrant forum for sharing experiences and knowledge, and envisioning new tools and directions for change towards gender equality in science and research policy.

More information and the formal application forms are available in the Membership section of the EPWS website:
www.epws.org

For further information, please contact the EPWS Secretariat: e-mail
membership@epws.org
tel.: +32 2 234 37 50

A Membership Application Form is included at the end of this newsletter

Commission unveils plans for cooperation between national research programmes

The European Commission has set out its plans for boosting cooperation between national research funding programmes. The new 'Joint Programming' scheme is designed to ensure that public research funds are used as efficiently as possible, and help Europe tackle shared problems more effectively. The first Joint Programming Initiatives should be launched by 2010.

Just 15% of public research funds in Europe are allocated at the European level, either through the EU's own framework programmes, or through intergovernmental organisations such as CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) or pan-European schemes like EUREKA. The remaining 85% is locked up in programmes which are designed and implemented nationally.

Currently, there is little collaboration between these national research programmes, although many of the challenges they address are shared by all European countries.

'Challenges such as food safety, healthcare, marine ecosystems and biodiversity, climate change and energy are not confined to Member States borders, so research should be done jointly, and not simply nationally,' explained EU Science and Research Commissioner, Janez Potocnik.

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_RCN=29663

ScienceBusiness launches first pan-European awards programme for enterprise on campus

The first pan-European awards programme to recognise academic entrepreneurs was launched in June 2008 at INSEAD's Europe campus, Fontainebleau, by the Science|Business Innovation Board, a panel of leaders in industry, academia and policy.

The Academic Enterprise Awards Europe 2008 programme has already been backed by representatives of 24 universities and institutes in Europe – including Imperial College London, ETH-Zürich, University College London, Stockholm's Karolinska Institutet, business schools INSEAD and ESADE, and the Isis Innovation arm of Oxford University.

It is the first awards programme across Europe to focus on university spin-outs and their founders – often cited as a vital source of innovation in Europe – and will be open to academic entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship enablers across the continent.

Nominations for prizes in 7 categories open online in July at www.sciencebusiness.net, and the contest concludes on 2 December 2008 in Stockholm at Karolinska with final judging, a conference on academic enterprise and an awards ceremony. Winners will receive public

recognition for their achievement and a chance at investment by corporate and individual investors invited to review nominees.

For more information:

<http://www.sciencebusiness.net/aces/>

FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award

The FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award is a joint initiative of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) and the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). Launched in 2007, the aim of the award is to highlight the major contributions made by female scientists to life sciences research. Winners of the award will serve as inspiring role models for future generations of women in science.

Each year an individual woman working in the life sciences will be recognised for her exceptional achievements. The winner will be honoured at the annual FEBS Congress, where she will receive a grant of €10,000 and present a special plenary lecture. The first award will be presented at the 2008 FEBS Congress in Athens, Greece.

The nominee must be a woman who has made significant contributions to her field of science in the last 5 years. The award is generally not meant to be for lifetime achievements. The nominee's research must be based in one of the FEBS or EMBO member countries and in a scientific field covered by FEBS and EMBO, i.e. the life sciences, including medical and agricultural research.

The deadline for nominations for the Award in 2009 is 1 September 2008

More information can be found at: <http://www.febs.org/index.php?id=449>

International Taskforce on Women and ICTs in Europe (ITF-Europe)

EPWS is delighted to announce the recent decision to set up a branch of the International Taskforce on Women and ICTs in Europe (ITF-Europe).

The International Taskforce on Women and ICTs (ITF) was launched in November 2006 to create synergy in international work to increase women's participation in ICTs. Guided by the principles in the Declaration of Agreement (<http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/Declaration.html>) that serve as its foundation, the ITF promotes communication and information exchange, including the sharing of research, knowledge, and resources.

The vision of the ITF is to create an information society for sustainable global development that fosters the potential for success of all its members. The overarching goal is to ensure women's full participation in this inclusive information society as leaders and creators, as well as users of ICT.

In March 2008 the plans for setting up of the European Centre were presented in Brussels in three fora:

- 4 March 2008 in the High-level meeting of the e-skills Industry Leadership Board
- 6 March 2008 during the EU Conference arranged by the European Commission: Move out from the Shadow: Seize the Opportunity!
- 7 March 2008 the 1st Multi-Stakeholder Partnership meeting was hosted by the ITF and sponsored by the Commissions DG INFSO.

Thereafter the decision was taken to set up the International Taskforce on Women and ICTs in Europe (ITF-Europe) as a temporary group acting in a similar way and engaged in similar goals as the ITF but in the European regional context and assisting the start-up and the work

of the European Centre for Women and Technology.

The Secretariat of ITF-Europe is at the Regional Innovation Centre Papirbredden Innovasjon in Drammen, Norway.

For more information:

Eva Fabry, Coordinator ITF-Europe

e-mail: eva.fabry@pi-as.no

Handan Caglayan - Winner of the IAFPE Rhonda Williams Prize

Congratulations to Handan Caglayan of Ankara University, Turkey who was recently awarded the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Rhonda Williams Prize 2008.

The Rhonda Williams Prize was instituted to help diversify IAFPE by encouraging underrepresented groups to participate in feminist economics. In particular, the prize is intended to encourage and support IAFPE members whose work reflects Rhonda Williams' legacy of scholarship and activism. The Rhonda Williams Prize is sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis, publisher of Feminist Economics.

This year's winner - Handan Caglayan - is both a trade union specialist and a member of the Department of Women's Studies at Ankara University. Handan's Ph.D thesis was entitled "A Qualitative Research on Kurdish Woman Identity from a Feminist Perspective" and she also has numerous publications to her name.

Handan was awarded the prize at the IAFPE conference in Torino, Italy, 19-21 June, 2008.

Nominate an Outstanding Woman Scientist, Engineer or Technologist TODAY!

The Women of Outstanding Achievement in SET Photographic Exhibition is a celebration of the UK's most outstanding women scientists, engineers and technologists. The exhibition

was established to celebrate the many talented SET women who play a key role as a science communicator, exceptional leader and role model or whose work in the fields of discovery and innovation is outstanding.

You can play a significant role in helping to raise the profile of the talents of UK's SET women. Nominate an outstanding woman today!

For more information or to nominate please click here :

<http://www.ukrc4setwomen.org/html/raise-your-profile/women-of-outstanding-achievement2009-nominations/>

Call for Contributions: 5th European Symposium on Gender & ICT Digital Cultures: Participation – Empowerment – Diversity“

The 5th European Gender and ICT Symposium takes place at the University of Bremen, Germany, 5-7 March 2009 and we will take a closer look at the complex interdependence between gender and ICT. It will explore ways to increase appreciation of diversity in design and use and to strengthen empowerment and participation by means of ICT. This Conference, the fifth in a row of symposia held in Europe since 2003, traditionally provides a meeting point for researchers from various disciplines and research schools dealing with gender and ICT.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 1 September 2008.

The conference homepage:
<http://www.gict2009.de>.

Call for contributions for EuroGentest Workshop

EuroGentest is an EU-funded Network of Excellence (NoE) with 5 Units looking at all

aspects of genetic testing, from Quality Management and Information Databases to Public Health, Ethics & Legal, issues, New Technologies and Education.

Based on the original project description, EuroGentest, has committed to launch a distinct activity (project) on 'gender and genetics' in which gender considerations in relation to genetic testing are analysed in a broader perspective.

A workshop planned in Leuven on 23 September is the key element of this activity.

Those who have an interest in the subject are invited to participate actively in the workshop and preferably also in its preparation.

Contributions (approx. 20 minutes presentation) to the workshop are still being sought.

More information can be found via the EuroGentest website:

<http://www.eurogentest.org/web/db/event/458/index.xhtml>)

Contact person is Lut Mergaert, at Yellow Window: lut@yellowwindow.com

Call for papers: 1st European Conference on Gender & Diversity in Engineering and Science

Although the last few years have seen a growing acceptance of gender issues in Germany, the situation of German women engineers and scientists is in many respects worse than that of their European colleagues (number, salary differences, risk of unemployment, career perspectives).

The conference aims to bring the gender and diversity arguments from the gender sciences to industry and to those people who can make a change: HR managers, employers, scientists and managers in engineering; both male and female.

Researchers and practitioners from all over Europe, be they male or female, are invited to send in abstracts for this conference. These abstracts will be reviewed by December 2008. The complete paper will be needed by the end of March 2009 for the conference proceedings.

Please send abstracts (max. 500 words) by 30. September 2008 to www.vdi-com.de

For more information:
<http://www.fib-conference2009.de/>

Funding Opportunities: FP7 Marie Curie People Programme

The 'Marie Curie Actions' which are a feature of the European Commission's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development have developed significantly in orientation over time, from a pure mobility fellowships programme to a programme dedicated to stimulating researchers' career development. The 'Marie Curie Actions' have been particularly successful in responding to the needs of Europe's scientific community in terms of training, mobility and career development.

There are currently two calls for individual fellowships open under the Marie Curie Programme with the deadline for applications being 19 August 2008.

- Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development 2008 (IOF)
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=120

- Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development 2008 (IEF)
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=118

Call for tender: Monitoring the FP7 contribution to sustainable development

A call for tender on monitoring the FP7 contribution to sustainable development was published on 28 June 2008. The aim of this call for tender is to set up a monitoring system to collect information on how FP7 contributes to the objectives of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The contractor will be asked to:

1. Develop the monitoring system
2. Collect data from the Work Programmes of the FP7 specific programmes
3. Report on the results and set up a dynamic interface for running customised searches and analyses.

Deadline for submission of tenders:
21 August 2008

The supporting documents can be downloaded at the following address
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/research/tenders/rtd-2008_s124-165127_en.cfm

Call for tender: European Directory of Women and ICT

The subject of the Contract is to prepare a European Directory of Women and ICT. The Directory will serve as a searchable database of all major stakeholders, their activities, interventions, good examples, statistics and indicators and will create a platform for interaction with regards to product, personal mobility, development of customised skills, entering or re-entering the labour market.

Deadline for submission of tenders:
1 September 2008

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/studies/index_en.htm

Upcoming Events

1. 25th European Conference on Surface Science ECOSSE, 27 July – 1 August 2008, University of Liverpool, UK
<http://www.ecoss25.eu/>
2. Mental Health Europe Conference 2008, 7–9 August 2008, Hotel Hvide Hus Vesterbro, Aalborg, Denmark
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/>
3. Conference “Gender, Space and Borders” The IX Conference of Nordic women’s and gender historians, 11–14 August 2008, Reykjavik, Iceland
<http://www.genus.se/Calendar/>
3. Conference “Bridging the Gap – Gender Budgeting as a Management Instrument for Gender Equality at Universities”, Funded through FP6 and co-ordinated by the Women’s Academy Munich, the conference wishes to present central findings of the Specific Support Action on “Gender Budgeting as an instrument for managing scientific organisations to promote equal opportunities for women and men - with the example of universities”. Date: September 17, 2008 Venue: Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
http://www.frauenakademie.de/projekt/eu_gender-budgeting/gender-budgeting_intro.htm
4. EuroGentest Workshop, 23 September 2008, Venue: Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium. Start at 10.30 am finished at 4.30 pm. See article above for more information or check the EuroGentest website <http://www.eurogentest.org/web/db/event/458/index.xhtml>
5. 1st European Conference on Gender and Diversity in Engineering and Science, 11-13 September 2009 in Düsseldorf, Germany. See article above for more information or check the website <http://www.fib-conference2009.de/>

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References

Articles published in the EPWS Newsletter are based on articles featured in different EU publications and information portals, booklets, advertising, seminars, conferences, etc.

Membership Application Form

Please fill in this form in **CAPITAL LETTERS** and **READ** all necessary documents on <http://www.epws.org>

Name of Association:
Name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) authorised to represent:
1.
2.
Address:
Telephone Number/ Fax Number:
E-mail:
Website:
Research Area(s) Covered:
Membership Type Requested (fee for 2008)
Full Member (120 €)
Associate Member (100 €)
Individual Supporting Member
Professor (30 €)
Researcher (30 €) (please specify)
Student (no fee) (please specify)
Supporting Organisation
Choice of Standing Committee
Monitoring the Policy Debate
Gender Dimension in Science
Promotion of Women Scientists
Information and Public Relations
Structural Reinforcement
Is your organisation/are you a member of any other network(s)?
I accept EPWS' Terms and Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> (online at www.epws.org)
Date, Place, Signature :

Your personal data are for EPWS internal use only and will not be transmitted to third parties.

Declaration (for ALL Membership Applicants)

We accept the purpose and aims of the European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL, its key policy statements, joint declarations and rules and procedures as decided by the General Assembly.

Date

Signature

Position/ Function

Please address questions and/or return completed form to:
Delphine Poiré, European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS
Rue d'Arlon 38, B-1000 Bruxelles, Tel: +32 2 234 37 50, Fax: +32 2 234 37 59
E-mail: delphine.poire@epws.org URL: www.epws.org

Declaration (for applicants for Full Membership)

We herewith declare that our association, according to the statutes which we are enclosing, is a legally registered non-governmental non-profit organisation acting independently of any political party or religious authority, and that its aims, goals and interests do not oppose the aims, goals and interests of the European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL.

Date

Signature

Position/ Function

Please address questions and/or return completed form to:
Delphine Poiré, European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS
Rue d'Arlon 38, B-1000 Bruxelles, Tel: +32 2 234 37 50, Fax: +32 2 234 37 59
E-mail: delphine.poire@epws.org URL: www.epws.org