

# Newsletter n° 24 on scientific culture and gender issues

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## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### **Gender in technological transfer positions: final conference in Barcelona on 11/13 June 2008.**

WIST - Women in Innovation, Science and Technology is a two years project funded under FP6 with the aim to analyse the role of gender in technology transfer positions.

The WIST project examined the participation and position of women in transfer, incubation and entrepreneurship (TIE) organisations, especially technology transfer offices of the universities, science parks and other networking organisations, which aim to facilitate the interaction between science and society by bringing together actors from universities, enterprises, policy making and societal services. The science/society dialogue is enhanced by helping researchers to turn their research results into commercial products and services, or by supporting new kinds of university/industry alliances.

The research was conducted in four EU countries in which the TIE sector has developed and is organised differently. Larger countries are represented by Germany and the UK, Romania is one of the transition countries in the EU and Finland is a typical small Nordic welfare state.

The WIST project has analysed both statistical data and interview data. Five case organisations were selected in each partner country. The chief executive officers of TIE organisations and 25 female experts were interviewed in each country during summer and early autumn of 2007 to get a picture of the field. The female expert interviews dealt with their personal career history, contents of work, TIE organisations as working places, networks and contacts and work life balance. The organisations were selected from engineering and biotechnology fields, universities and research institutes and in high-tech and aspiring regions.

More information on the WIST website: <http://wist.ncl.ac.uk/partners/ippbo.htm>

### **Supporting Women in Scientific Careers - Joint ADVANCE and ENCOUWOMSCI Conference, Brussels 26/27 June 2008**

The final conference 'Supporting Women in scientific careers' of two EU-projects was held in Brussels on June 26th and 27th, 2008. ADVANCE and ENCOUWOMSCI are funded by the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development to improve the situation of female scientists in the European Union.

At the conference, the two projects presented their experiences and results achieved by recent seminars, training modules and mentoring. Central was the conference's role as a platform for information and exchange on good-practice examples from the two projects.

Attended by over 50 representatives from 21 European countries, the conference highlighted the current and future impact of training activities for encouraging women scientists. This was done by opening a wider debate on the scientific community and the scientific culture in Europe, on policy making processes and social aspects of science.

Prominent speakers on the first day included Dr. Liisa Husu, University of Helsinki; Dr. Brigitte Mühlenbruch, EPWS Vice-President; Prof. Dr. Ene Ergma, Former Vice President of the Estonian Academy of Science and current President of the Estonian Parliament; Prof. Marina Calloni, University of Milan; Julia Kzyshkowska, University of Heidelberg; and Alina Ligia Dumitrescu, Romanian Academy.

For more information on the conference and the ADVANCE project: <http://www.advance-project.eu/>

## **Report on Women and Science by the European Parliament**

Ms Britta Thomsen - Danish MEP (PSE)- took the initiative to promote a report on the situation of women in science.

The report was submitted to FEMM Committee in February 2008 and its shadow Rapporteur was Mr Den Dover (EPP-ED, UK and Member of the ITRE Committee). The report was adopted by the Plenary on May 21st.

The adoption of the Thomsen proposal supports the European Commission policy on women and science, in its various initiatives: role models and mentoring schemes promotion, supporting network's initiative, awareness raising amongst the scientific community and policy makers, the respect of the non-binding quota of at least 40% of women in each scientific domains, special programmes increasing young girls' and women's interest in starting scientific careers, fight against stereotypes and pay gap, etc.

The report can be downloaded at the following address.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance\\_pleniere/textes\\_deposes/rapports/2008/0165/P6\\_A\(2008\)0165\\_EN.doc](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_deposes/rapports/2008/0165/P6_A(2008)0165_EN.doc)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Benchmarking policy measures for gender equality in science**

In 2002, the Helsinki Group in Women in Science, made of representatives of the Member States and gender experts, published a report on national policies on women in science which also included the national statistical profiles. The "Benchmarking national policies on gender equality in science" report provides an update on the national policies and on the statistical profiles of the 33 countries represented in the Helsinki Group, and it introduces for the first time data on the Western Balkans. This report builds on the previous one and evaluates the policies and measures with indicators measuring the presence of women in science. It gives an interesting and original overview on the various national situations and tries to develop a European synopsis. The publication can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=124>

Paper copies can be requested at the following e-mail address:

[rtd-womenscience@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-womenscience@ec.europa.eu)

### **Monitoring progress towards Gender Equality in the Sixth Framework Programme**

#### **Synthesis Report**

#### **Science and Society/Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society**

A series of gender monitoring studies were launched during FP6 (five lots each covering several activity areas, a separate study for DG INFSO and a coordination contract) designed to monitor progress towards gender equality and gender relevance awareness in FP6. The studies examine both the participation of women in FP6 activities and the gender dimension of the research content, the aim being to assess the success of current gender mainstreaming strategies and to provide recommendations for future activities in this field.

This report presents the results of the study for the activity areas Citizens and Governance in a knowledge-based society; support for the coherent development of policies (including related policy-oriented research) and Science and Society. The study results indicate that under the research areas relevant to this study, a significant contribution has been made in FP6 in terms of progress towards gender equality. However, there remains scope for improvement. The publication can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1540>

No paper version available.

Paper versions of the executive summaries for "Science and Society" and "Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society" are available soon and can be requested at the following e-mail address: [rtd-womenscience@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-womenscience@ec.europa.eu)

## EVENTS

### FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award 2009

#### Call for nominations

**Deadline: 1 September 2008**

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) are pleased to announce the second call for nominations for the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award.

The aim of this award is to highlight the major contributions being made by female life scientists to European research and to present inspiring role models for future generations of women in science.

Nominees should be excellent women scientists working in Europe who have made outstanding contributions to life sciences research in the last 5 years and significantly advanced our understanding of a particular discipline.

Their research can be in any area of the life sciences including agricultural and biomedical research.

Each year the award will recognise and reward the exceptional achievements of one woman working in the life sciences in Europe. The winner will be honoured at the annual FEBS Congress, where she will receive an award of 10,000 EUR and present a special plenary lecture. The first winner is Naama Barkai of the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field of systems biology and the mathematical modelling of biological systems. The award will be made on 2 July at the 2008 FEBS Congress in Athens, Greece.

For details of the nomination procedure, please visit:

<http://www.embo.org/gender/award.html>

<http://www.febs.org/women-award>

## Conference announcement

**The politics of knowing: research, institutions and gender in the making, 27-28 November 2008, Prague, Czech Republic**

Science today, perhaps more than ever, is the site of multiple negotiations. Market values increasingly drive scientific research and higher education yet the traditional emphasis upon rational knowledge remains. The range of actors with a claim to 'have a say' in science has also grown to include a range of voices beyond academe, from industry and the public. These new actors may play different roles in different contexts and geopolitical spaces. All these processes also have a gender dimension - from recruitment and retention of students and employees, to work-life balance, and the gendering of knowledge production processes and practices.

The conference will showcase research on these issues from science and technology studies, and feminist and post-colonial studies.

**KEYNOTE SPEECHES:**

Prof. Helen Longino, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University

Prof. Martina Merz, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Lucerne

**SESSIONS:**

Science in “knowledge society”

Career maze

Socio-epistemic boundary work

Making (gendered) realities in epistemic practices

Feminism re-frames science (studies)

Policy work on women in science

More on programme and registration at <http://www.knowing.soc.cas.cz/?page=conference>.

Registration is free.

Contact person: Marcela Linkova: [marcela.linkova@soc.cas.cz](mailto:marcela.linkova@soc.cas.cz)

**International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development (IJISD)****Call for papers****Special Issue on: "Gender And Sustainable Development"*****Guest Editor: Candice Stevens, OECD, France***

This special issue welcomes papers based on new quantitative research concerning the economic, social and environmental role of women and the implications for government policies and business practices.

**Subject Coverage**

Original research is welcome on topics which include but are not limited to:

- Women in the workforce and economic growth
- Economic impacts of family-friendly policies
- Gender balance and innovative performance
- Female focus in poverty reduction
- Performance of male and female-led firms
- Innovation and women entrepreneurs
- Valuation of female-dominated professions
- Valuation of household work
- Effectiveness of gender quotas in public and private sectors
- Costs and benefits of engendered health policies
- Contributions of women migrants
- Gender aspects of education trends
- Women in global supply chains
- Engendered approaches to disaster risk reduction
- Sustainable consumption patterns by gender
- Gender governance approaches and climate change

**Notes for Prospective Authors**

Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere

All papers are refereed through a peer review process. A guide for authors sample copies and other relevant information for submitting papers are available on the *Author Guidelines* page

**Important Dates**

Abstract of not more than 150 words by: *1 September 2008*

[Abstracts to be sent to: Guest Editor (Candice.Stevens@oecd.org) or to the General Editor, Dr Delyse Springett (D.V.Springett@massey.ac.nz)]

Full paper submission by: *1 November 2008*

### **Editors and Notes**

You may send one copy of the full paper in the form of an MS Word file attached to an e-mail (details in Author Guidelines) to one of the following:

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75775 Paris Cedex 16  
France

*E-mail:* Candice.Stevens@oecd.org

with a copy to:

IEL Editorial Office

*E-mail:* [ijisd@inderscience.com](mailto:ijisd@inderscience.com)

Please include in your submission the title of the Special Issue, the title of the Journal and the name of the Guest Editor

### **IN THE MEDIA**

Some recent articles which might be of interest...

From the Economist:

[http://www.economist.com/science/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=11288385](http://www.economist.com/science/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=11288385)

[http://www.economist.com/business/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=11294323](http://www.economist.com/business/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=11294323)

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