

European Platform of Women Scientists



On the Future of Gender Action Plans in FP7

Women from over 80 networks from 28 countries meet in Brussels on 20 October 2006 for the First Network Event of the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS. At the occasion of this event, the EPWS Board of Administration has decided to review the current achievements of European research policy for women in science.

- EPWS is highly impressed of what is being achieved for women in science in European research policy, especially under Framework Programme 6 (FP 6). The fact that the Commission has insisted on Gender Action Plans (GAPs) in parts of research funding under FP6 has caused member states to induce similar regulations and considerations on the national level.
- The request for GAPs in FP6 has led to attention to the gender dimension and increased participation of women scientists in integrated projects and networks of excellence. It compelled applicants to address gender aspects in research and the gender balance in research teams. The need for GAPs also induced a change in communication between scientists and gender equality officers in academic institutions on the national as well as the European level, especially concerning the esteem of these officers' work, which would be important to encourage and develop further.

Given this high success, the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS would like to support the inclusion of Gender Action Plans in FP 7.

- EPWS considers GAPs within the proposal and evaluation stage of European Framework Programmes an essential part of the overall gender mainstreaming strategy and gender equality policy of the European Commission.
- GAPs are a crucial expression of the European Commission's commitment to gender equality, equal opportunities in research and science and indispensable for increasing the number of women scientists and achieving the goals of the Lisbon Agenda. They should therefore remain an integral part of European research funding.

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The European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS is a non profit association with an international aim. The Platform seeks to promote women scientists by networking their networks and engage women scientists in the research policy debate. The overall objective of the Platform is to act as a structural link between women scientists and policy makers.