Editorial

Dear Readers,

The participation of women in science and their impact on research has been growing in recent decades. Women are increasingly involved in shaping the scientific agenda as researchers, academic teachers, science policy makers, administrators of universities and research funding institutions. What is this impact? What difference do they make?

The EPWS Annual Conference 2008 “Women Shaping Science” in Vilnius, 5-7 June 2008, will explore and highlight the current and future impact of women scientists on the scientific community, in the policy making process, and in reflecting social aspects of science. Particular attention will be paid to the contribution and situation of women scientists from the Baltic States.

Prominent keynote and plenary speakers will address core questions such as the relative progress and continuing contradictions regarding women and science. Women scientists from all over Europe will have the opportunity to present their work both through participating in topical sessions and/or through a poster exhibition highlighting research conducted at EU level. The call for sessions and posters closed on 18 March 2008 and selected proposals have been notified last week. Thank you very much to all of those who confirmed their interest in active participation by sending in proposals.
The Preliminary Programme is available on the EPWS website at [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org). Details on individual sessions will be added soon.

Registration for the conference is now open on the EPWS website and will run until 9 May 2008. There is no registration fee. We urge all of you to sign up early since the hotel situation in Vilnius is very tight in June 2008 and reservation deadlines are beginning of May 2008.

Join us for the conference, insert your ideas, visions and experience into the discussion! Please also spread the word among your colleagues and other interested communities to make the conference a lively market place of networks, ideas, and partnerships. We hope to see you there!

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

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**EPWS 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
Vilnius (Lithuania), 5-7 June 2008

Registration is now open at [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)
Deadline: 9 May 2008
The EPWS General Assembly will be held on 6 June 2008.
For more information see [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org).

**PARTNERSHIP OFFER**
EPWS, your successful partner in European projects!

To be successful, applicants to European projects need to demonstrate a certain experience in communication and their capacity to disseminate project findings. Should you lack time and knowledge to focus on this issue, EPWS is the solution.

Conveniently located in the centre of the European Union, the European Platform of Women Scientists will be the perfect partner for European project consortia willing to gain high-level expertise in communication and dissemination of information.

EPWS has a strong expertise in dissemination of information and organisation of conferences, as well as the capacity to address the European research community and European research decision-makers. EPWS would therefore be a helpful partner for your project.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you look for a partner to execute the communication and dissemination of information work package of your project.

For more information contact Emmanuelle Causse: [emmanuelle.causse@epws.org](mailto:emmanuelle.causse@epws.org)

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**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.

Applications for Full, Associate, and Supporting Membership which reach EPWS by **15 APRIL 2008**
will be processed ahead of the General Assembly in June 2008.

More information and the formal application forms are available in the Membership section of the EPWS website: [www.epws.org](http://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.
News from EPWS Members

1. Two EPWS members, Marianne Kriszio (BuKoF) and Vera Regitz-Zagrosek (Individual member) were members of a group awarded the 2007 Margherita von Brentano Prize of the Freie Universität Berlin (Germany). This award recognises excellent personal initiatives or projects on women advancement and gender studies in Germany. 

2. *The Centre for Women's Studies Theology* of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) organised the conference “Noli Me Tangere: Text – Image – Context” in Rome (Italy), on 1-3 April 2008. 


   [http://www2.vrouwen.net/gaia/](http://www2.vrouwen.net/gaia/)


7. *The German Association of Women Pharmacists* organise the Gender Medicine Congress 2008 in Heidelberg (Germany) on 6-8 June 2008. 
   [http://www.pharmazeutinnen.de/ShowPage.php?PlId=228&LangId=0&NavId=485](http://www.pharmazeutinnen.de/ShowPage.php?PlId=228&LangId=0&NavId=485)

8. *The Commission on Gender and Geography* will organise sessions at the International Geographical Union Congress “Building together our territories”, which will take place in Tunis (Tunisia) on 12-15 August 2008. 
   [http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/igu gender/](http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/igu gender/)
The first EPWS Annual Conference “Women Shaping Science” will host prestigious speakers from all over Europe: scientists, politicians, and science decision-makers.

**Prof. Habil. Dr. Kazimiera D. Prunskienė**, Patroness of the conference, Minister and Member of the Lithuanian Parliament was the first Prime Minister of Lithuania after the country’s Independence in 1990. **Roma Žakaitienė** is the current Lithuanian Minister of Education and Science.

The European Commission will be represented by **Florence Bouvret**, Scientific Officer in the Directorate General Research, Unit Scientific Culture and Gender Issues.

**Prof. Benediktas Juodka**, Rector of Vilnius University, is internationally known as scientist and university leader.

**Prof. Dr. Ene Ergma**, Astrophysicist and Former Vice President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, is the Speaker of the Estonian Parliament. She is also Former President of ENWISE (Enlarging Women in Science to East), the Expert Group on Women Scientists in the Central and Eastern European Countries and in the Baltic States, who delivered the report “Waste of Talents: Turning Private Struggles into Public Issue. Women and Science in the ENWISE Countries” in 2004.

**Prof. Dr. Ada Yonath**, internationally reknown crystallographer from the Structural Biology Department at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot (Israel) is the 2008 European L’Oréal-UNESCO Laureate For Women in Science - Life Sciences.

**Dr. Alina Ligia Dumitrescu** is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of World Economy of the Romanian Academy and specialised in European Integration, Economies in Transition, Macroeconomics, European Social Policy, Socio-Economic Research, Management of Non-Governmental Organisations, Social Work with Discriminated Groups (Minorities and Women).

**Prof. Dr. Marja Makarow**, Chief Executive of the European Science Foundation, is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and former Vice-Rector for Research of the University of Helsinki. She has worked for several national and intergovernmental research funding and research performing organisations in Europe. She is a member of the National Advisory Council for Science and Technology Policy in Finland reporting to the Ministries and Parliament.

**First steps to establish EIT**

In February 2008, the European Commissioner for Education and Culture, Ján Figel, announced the members of the Identification Committee – the committee charged with recommending members for the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The members of the Identification Committee are: Professor Günter Stock, Chairman, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities; Professor Miklos Boda, Advisor to the Rector at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Cecilia Schelin Seidegård, Chairwoman of the Royal University of Technology in Stockholm; and Professor Ronan Stéphan, Director for Industrial Affairs and Technology Transfer of the French CNRS, and Executive Director of France Innovation Scientifique et Transfert SA.

The Identification Committee started work in February 2008 and is expected to complete its deliberations in July 2008. The Governing Board will have 18 members.

The Governing Board, which will steer the activities of the EIT, will be composed of independent members who provide a balance of expertise in business, research and education. It will set the strategy of the EIT and decide on the areas in which to invest and to establish the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). It will also be responsible for the selection of the communities, and for the monitoring and evaluating their work.

Furthermore, on 11 March 2008, the European Parliament adopted the regulation which gives
way to the establishment of the EIT after two years of discussions in Brussels on the structure, financing and even the name of the new body.

The main aim of the EIT is to help boosting Europe’s investment in technology and innovation and its capacity to attract the world's leading researchers and scientists, as well as promote a link between academia and the private sector.

Instead of a new institute similar to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US – as originally considered by the Commission – the EU has opted for a two-tier structure, a Governing Board and numerous research communities in various countries (KICs).

Every KIC would consist of at least three partner organisations, situated in at least two different member states and including at least one higher education institution and one private company.

While not awarding academic degrees itself, the institute will encourage universities taking part in projects financed by it to add an EIT label to the degrees and diplomas they award. Once the EIT is established, the first KICs on climate change, renewable energy and next-generation information and communication technologies are expected to be established within eighteen months. If the EIT is operational in summer 2008, the first KICs could be established by 2010.


**Fifth Freedom for EU Scientists**

On the occasion of the EU Spring Summit, the EU leaders gathered in Brussels on 13-14 March 2008 agreed to step up efforts to improve working conditions for researchers and increase knowledge transfer between universities and business as a way to reverse the “brain drain” of European talent.

The politicians highlighted the “free movement of knowledge” as a priority to respond to the challenges of globalisation and transform the EU into “a truly modern and competitive economy”.

According to the Conclusions of the Summit, this “fifth freedom” should be created by removing barriers to the cross-border mobility of researchers, students, scientists and academic staff and by providing researchers with "better career structures" including family-friendly career paths.

The 4 traditional freedoms in the European Union, as stated in its Treaty, are the free circulation of goods, capitals, people and services.

Source: EurActiv.com, 14 March 2008

**Report on Women in Research Decision Making**


Created by the European Commission in 2007, the Expert Group’s objective was to identify and review positive actions and gender equality measures at institutional and national level, in view of promoting women into senior positions in public research.

The report of the WIRDEM Expert Group examines and describes in detail nomination procedures, obstacles, facts and funding limitations that women need to overcome in their academic careers. It reviews the procedures for evaluating and promoting research personnel to senior positions and identifies examples of good practice at national and institutional levels.

Based on this analysis, the report proposes recommendations to facilitate the design of a framework for better targeted actions at European level, and highlights the problem of poor awareness and visibility.

For the full report: http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/mapping-the-
The European Commission published a study "Monitoring gender equality in the 6th Framework Programme" on 18 March 2008. The study covers all RTD areas including nanotechnology, nanoscience, new industrial materials and production processes (Priority 3 in FP6) and looks at the performance of European funded research from the twofold perspective of women participation in research (research by women) and the integration of gender relevant issues in research content (research for women).

The executive summary for nanotechnology new materials and production can be found at:

The synthesis report (covering also transport, aerospace, energy and Euratom) can be found at:

Marja Makarow, new Chief Executive of the ESF

On 1 January 2008, Marja Makarow took over as Chief Executive of the European Science Foundation (ESF), the first woman to lead the organisation since its foundation over 30 years ago.

A biochemist by training, Professor Makarow did her PhD in Helsinki. She then moved to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg (Germany) to carry out her post doctoral research.

Professor Makarow first became involved in the policy-making arena ten years ago, when she was nominated as a member of the Academy of Finland’s Research Council for Health. Her most important posts include membership of the Finnish delegation to the EMBL and the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC). Other organisations which have benefited from her expertise include Science Foundation Ireland, the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research and Research Foundation Flanders.

She is also a member of Finland’s National Council for Science and Technology Policy, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and reports to the government.

Established in 1974, the European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 77 member organisations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries.

For more information on ESF:
http://www.esf.org/
Source: Cordis, 7 March 2008


The reasons behind the adoption of this Code of Conduct are that knowledge gaps remain about the impact of these technologies on human health and the environment, and that issues relating to ethics and the respect of fundamental rights are involved.

Based on 7 general principles, the Code of Conduct invites Member States to take concrete action, involving universities, research institutes and companies, for the safe development and use of nanotechnologies.

The 7 general principles are: Meaning, Sustainability, Precaution, Inclusiveness, Excellence, Innovation and Accountability.

This Code of Conduct is based on a consultation that the Commission had launched in July 2007.

For further information:
New statistics on women employed in science and technology

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, published new statistics on women employed in science and technology on 7 February 2008.

According to this report, in 2006 the human resources in science and technology (HRST) aged 25-64 employed in the EU totaled 75.7 million. Out of the number of employed HRST with tertiary education (HRSTE), 48% were female. In terms of occupation (HRSTO) the share of females was near parity at 51%. However, women appear to be more successful at finding a job that matches their qualifications, as 48% of all employed female HRST had completed tertiary education and were employed as professionals or technicians (HRSTC), against 43% for men.

For the full document: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OF_FPUB/KS-SF-08-010/EN/KS-SF-08-010-EN.PDF

Recruitment of the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality

On 14 March 2008, the European Commission (EC) made the second vacancy notice for the post of Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality to be based in Vilnius.

This is the second attempt to elect a Director for the Institute, as the first screening resulted in no suitable candidates out of 70.

The term of the mandate is 5 years. The Director is responsible for the daily management of the Institute and the implementation of the work programme. He/she is in charge of the recruitment of staff and, under the supervision of the Management Board, is responsible for:

✓ Performance of the tasks of the Institute;
✓ Preparing and implementing the annual and medium-term work programmes;
✓ Preparing the meetings of the Management Board and the Experts’ Forum;
✓ Preparing and publishing the annual report;
✓ Staff-related and day-to-day administration matters;
✓ Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Institute against its objectives

Deadline: 22 April 2008


The Application Form: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel_administration/documents/vilnius_form_en.doc


First FEBS/EMBO Women in Science award

The Israeli systems biologist Naama Barkai has been named as the first ever winner of the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science award, which the Federation of European Biochemical Societies and European Molecular Biology Organisation launched in 2007.

The award, which will be handed out annually, recognises the exceptional achievements of a female life sciences researcher over the previous five years and whose work will inspire future generations of women in science.

Professor Barkai, who is based at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, won the award for her outstanding contributions to the field of systems biology and the mathematical modelling of biological systems.

Source: Cordis News, 1/02/2008

Call for European Collaborative Research Projects proposals in the Social Sciences

The European Science Foundation has launched a Call for Proposals for European
Collaborative Research Projects (ECRP) in the Social Sciences.
The ECRP Programme is designed to advance international research collaboration in the social sciences by encouraging European academic networking and pooling of research expertise. The Programme offers the opportunity to conduct problem-driven multilateral projects on any topic within the social sciences that demonstrates an international framework for research collaboration. Projects need not be exclusively European in their topic focus.
Moreover, the ESF encourages and welcomes an increased participation of women in the ECRP Scheme as Project Leaders, Principal Investigators and Project Members.
**Deadline:** 28 April 2008
For further information:
http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/programmes/ecrp/call-for-proposals.html

The European Commission has launched a Call for expression of interest for the establishment of a database of prospective independent experts to assist for tasks in connection with the ICT Policy Support Programme of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).
**Deadline:** Applications may be submitted at any time until 30 September 2009, when registration will be closed.
For further information on the Programme, tasks and the selection procedure:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/calls/call_experts_07/index_en.htm

In preparation of the conference “The politics of knowing: research, institutions and gender in the making”, the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has opened a call for papers on the following themes:

- Excellence and (public) accountability
- Epistemic communities, research collaborations and disciplinary dis/semblance
- Growing into/growing out
- Material practices of knowledge production and the legitimization of knowledge
- Methodologies revisited: science studies of social sciences and humanities

**Deadline** for submission of proposals: 30 April 2008
For further information:
http://www.knowing.soc.cas.cz/

The 7th European Feminist Research Conference is an international event based on cutting-edge scholarship. The conference will reflect a diversity of feminist and gender studies research incorporating perspectives from across the broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. The focus is on the way in which knowledge, politics, and the imagination inform gendered cultures in contemporary Europe.
This triennial conference is this time organised by Athena (Advanced Thematic Network in Activities in Women's studies in Europe), Gender Studies Programme Utrecht University and Aiofe (Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe).
Themes:
- Imagination art & politics
- Feminism in post-secular Europe
- Global connections: migration, consumption and politics
- Sexuality, public, private and beyond
- War and violence
- Media and Technology: The politics of Representation
- Multi-ethnic Europe: identities, boundaries and communities
- Stories to tell: fiction, history & memory
ICT 2008: Call for Exhibits and Call for Networking Sessions

ICT 2008 – "I"s TO THE FUTURE: Invention, innovation, impact – is the Europe’s biggest research event for information and communication technologies and will take place in Lyon (France), on 25-27 November 2008.

In preparation of this event, a Call for Exhibits and a Call for Networking Sessions has been published.

The ICT 2008 Exhibition intends to show concrete results of research in and around Europe related to information and communications technologies. The Call for Exhibits concerns the following areas of the exhibition:

- Research and technology projects with high-tech prototype demonstrators;
- Information stands about ICT-related activities (without technology prototypes);
- Success story SMEs to be displayed in the SME village;
- Success story international research and technology projects as well as information stands of third countries/regions (outside the EU and Associated Countries) to be displayed in the International Village.

**Deadline for submission of exhibition ideas:** 5 May 2008 at 12h00 CET.

The Networking Sessions at ICT 2008 complement the conference and exhibition and provide an open forum for exchanging views and ideas on how to address current ICT challenges. Networking sessions encourage forward-thinking collaborative initiatives that support the development of the European Research Area.

Proposals for networking sessions are welcome in the following areas:

- all scientific and technological subjects directly related to ICT;
- all components of FP7 (Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities), CIP, as well as for relevant topics related to EU ICT policies, including lead markets and international cooperation, provided they meet certain criteria.

**Deadline for submitting networking proposals:** 16 June 2008 at 12h00 CET

Women in Technology and Science (WITS) and the Open University from Ireland launched the new Re-Enter programme in February 2008.

This programme aims helping trained, skilled and experienced women to rejoin the workforce after a career break. The new one-year all-island pilot project will be open to 20 women from Ireland and will feature a 10-week online course delivered by the Open University in the summer of 2008. Participants will also benefit from mentoring and an internship in industry.

The course is geared to people returning to technical careers and will work on a range of skills, including CV development, exploring new trends in the industry and planning future career goals.

For further information: www.witsireland.com/re-enter
Upcoming Events

1. *Women Innovators Connected*, Glasgow (Scotland), 17 April 2008

   [http://www.upv.es/eurosummit08](http://www.upv.es/eurosummit08)


4. 5\textsuperscript{th} *FemStart Conference*, Bucharest (Romania), 4-5 June 2008


6. *"I"s TO THE FUTURE: Invention, innovation, impact*, Lyon (France), 25-27 November 2008

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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](http://www.epws.org)*

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