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Do visit our rebuilt website at [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org) and our news-page at [www.epws.net](http://www.epws.net)
MESSAGE FROM THE EPWS PRESIDENT

Dear Readers, dear Friends of EPWS,

The 32\textsuperscript{nd} EPWS Newsletter reports on our 2012 General Assembly and the Short Conference in September 2012 in Brussels, where EPWS had the pleasure being guests of the Royal Observatory in Brussels.

The newsletter includes reports on some of the events and projects in which EPWS members were and are involved and you can read the letter EPWS has sent to all Members of the European Parliament, particularly to the members of the Committee of Industry, Research and Energy ITRE concerning the EPWS position to HORIZON 2020.

We are pleased with the results of the ITRE “\textit{REPORT on the proposal for a Council decision establishing the Specific Programme Implementing HORIZON 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)}”, where many of the EPWS propositions related to equal opportunities for female scientists and the gender dimension in research and science are accepted. So our engagement and our work have been worthwhile. (\textit{Please see page 9 for the website link.})

On 11\textsuperscript{th} December 2012 the Competitiveness Council of the European Union published the Council Conclusions “\textit{A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth}” and the new priority “Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research” is estimated to be positive as well.

So let us look optimistically towards the future of female scientists and the political work of EPWS.

Wishing you interesting reading!

Brigitte Mühlenbruch, EPWS President

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gillian Gehring, who has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) by the University of Sheffield in June 2012 and also by the University of Hull in January 2012. The degree of D.Sc. is awarded for work of an exceptional standard.

Gillian was a founding member of the Board of Administration of the EPWS and is an Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Sheffield.

Try the Data button on EPWS web-site!

A “Data” section was recently introduced on the EPWS website. It presents recent information, in English, that can interest our members and our website visitors. \textit{Feel free to send such documents to the Executive Committee}; they will be posted on the website after approval.
2012 EPWS
General Assembly

The Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels

27th September 2012

At the General Assembly, the Association’s impressive progress report on the EPWS’s political interventions was widely acclaimed. These interventions included: the EPWS Lunch Debate at the European Parliament on 31 January 2012; a Position Paper on Horizon 2020 and an open letter to the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science; EPWS inputs at conferences throughout Europe; the continuously up-dated website as well as regular newsletters.” The Association’s audited figures 2011 were accepted and the Board of Administration discharged.

EPWS is a Belgian AISBL “association international sans but lucratif” and is classed as a “small association”. Modifications to the statutes, which aim at a simplification of the operation of EPWS, were unanimously approved by the 2012 General Assembly and they have been registered by the Belgian Authorities.

Patricia Lampens resigned from her position as EPWS Treasurer due to an increasing work load: in particular since last summer, she has been a member of the organizing committee of Commission 26 of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). This honour has brought her extra responsibilities. The EPWS Board of Administration members would like to thank her for all her work for EPWS as a Treasurer. Additionally we are particularly grateful to Patricia for successfully representing the EPWS during the modification of the statutes.

The official election of a new Treasurer will take place after the 2013 General Assembly, when elections for the BoA will take place. Meanwhile Dora Groo, Yasmin Robson and Claudine Hermann manage the Platform’s membership duties and obligations. Many thanks are due to them for accepting these extra duties for EPWS.

Claudine Hermann: EPWS Vice-President
2012 EPWS
Short Conference

At the Royal Observatory of Belgium, Uccle, near Brussels,

27th September 2012

The EPWS General Assembly was hosted by the Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels – Uccle, and was preceded by a “Short Conference” which was held in the same building.

The Observatory director, Dr R. Van der Linden, welcomed the participants, EPWS members, Belgian women scientists and research administrators.

Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch, the EPWS President, then presented the actions of EPWS relating to the preparation of Horizon 2020, the future Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which is still under discussion. The EPWS propositions and position papers, sent to MEPs and science decision-makers, aim at improving the place of gender issues in Horizon 2020.

Nadine Heller-Genath, National Contact Point and in charge of the FiF (Women in Research) office of the German federal ministry of Education and Research, and Katja Marjanen, FiF, gave a talk about “Gender Equality on the Way to Horizon 2020”. They first presented the result of a study financed by FiF on EU research projects under German coordination, analysing the consideration of gender issues and their impact on project planning, application advice, evaluation, project negotiations and execution. The observed poor consideration is related to the fact that these gender questions are non-compulsory for the entire process. Measures to improve this consideration are then proposed. Finally the elaboration process of Horizon 2020 between the Commission and the European Parliament was explained.

Dr Monika Lanzenberger, Physics and Engineering Science Management Department of the European Research Council (ERC) made a presentation entitled “Gender Equality in the ERC”. After a general presentation of the ERC activities, she specified the main objectives of the ERC Gender Equality Plan, which concerns several steps: awareness, submission, evaluation, awarding grants, alumni. For each step, concrete examples were given. Detailed statistical analyses were realized on male and female participations, according to the discipline and the country, to the different ERC grants, and on the presence of women among the ERC evaluators.

Claudine Hermann, EPWS Vice-President

EPWS Newsletter, Issue 32, February 2013

Letter from the EPWS President to Horizon 2020:

European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL
The President Dr. Brigitte Mühlenbruch
Rue d'Arlon 38 B-1000 Bruxelles
Date: 12.11.2012

EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020

Dear Colleague,

In view of the up-coming debate on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 in the European Parliament, I am contacting you today to draw your attention on the arguments of the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS regarding the document in question.

The Platform has addressed the topic in the EPWS Lunch Debate in the European Parliament titled “Towards a Gender Balanced Science Culture to Foster Innovation” on 31 January 2012. Following the debate, EPWS as the voice of women scientists in European research policy has put forward the Platform’s contributions to the discussion in an EPWS Position Paper on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 on 26 March 2012 which you find enclosed.

In this Position Paper, EPWS welcomes Horizon 2020 and strongly supports the programme’s endeavour for gender equality. The Platform also emphasizes the need for the programme’s general statements concerning gender equality to be supported by practical actions to become reality. The EPWS Position Paper addresses three main areas: Excellence includes women participation and gender research; Women participation in European research and projects; CSOs’ participation in European projects and puts forward constructive suggestions for amendments concerning the following issues:

- excellence definition and women scientists;
- excellent research and its gender dimension;
- administrative simplification should not be detrimental to gender issues;
- explicit targets for women participation in European research and projects;
- reasonable conditions for women scientists’ mobility and working conditions;
- measures to strengthen the participation of Civil Society Organisations in European research.

As one of the protagonists in arguing for gender equality in science and the integration of the gender dimension in research, I kindly ask you to support the consideration of the Platform’s arguments in the discussions on Horizon 2020 to come and help us make the voice of women scientists heard in European research policy.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please let us know.

Sincerely, Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch, EPWS President
The 2012 European Gender Summit was held at the European Parliament, Brussels, on the 29 - 30 Nov 2012. It joined the excellence and equality agendas in science, as a strategic approach for enhancing full realization of the research and innovation potential in Europe.

400 participants from 30 countries represented over 200 science institutions and other organizations. EPWS participated at the event and was represented by a poster.

Participants had the opportunity to

- **identify** the best and most realistic solutions for integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation
- **exchange** ideas and views with top-level leaders in science and in public policy on the opportunities for advancing the gender dimension in Horizon 2020 and in other policy initiatives
- **learn** from leading science institutions about the practical measures that they have already developed to advance gender equality in research and in higher education
- **learn** from the researchers themselves about new discoveries and a better understanding of the role of the gender dimension in many different areas of study, and how these findings can lead to new ideas and new markets for science knowledge
- Through discussion with other participants and consultation with the Summit’s on-line community, help **enrich** the advocacy strategy for excellence science by ensuring that it is sensitive to gender equality issues and to the needs and concerns of society.

The participants, after reviewing latest research evidence, agreed on 3 major recommendations:

- HORIZON 2020, and all publicly funded research programmes, should require applicants to address the role of gender dimension in their proposals for evaluation and impact assessment across the whole research process, design, execution and communication of results.
- The advisory and award panels should be trained to recognize the risk of gender bias in the different way they assess women and men and their work, which evidence shows systematically disadvantages women.
- The indicator "% of women in Grade A researcher positions" should be introduced in the Innovation Union Scoreboard.

The results of the summit can be found in detail in a report to the European Parliament, and the “Council, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and the Member States: “Developing Systematic Implementation Strategy to Advance EU Policy on Gender Equality in Science, as part of HORIZON 2020, European Research Area and Innovation Union”.


**Dora Groo:** EPWS Board of Administration (BoA)

The abstract of the Project states that the aim of the GenderTime project is to identify and implement the best systematic approach to increase the participation and career advancement of women researchers in selected institutions where self-tailored action plans are implemented. The plans will involve activities such as recruitment, retention and promotion policies, supporting work-life balance measures, etc. To guarantee the real implementation of structural change in each institution a central role will be assumed by the transfer agents. A crucial point will be the real commitment of the organizational heads of each participant.

Among the 10 partners, there are 8 scientific partners across Europe: Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Austria; Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy; Linköping University, Sweden; Université Paris-Est Créteil, France; Mihailo Pupin Institute, Serbia; Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany; Loughborough University, United Kingdom; Fundacion TECNALIA Research & Innovation, Spain. An external partner is in charge of the evaluation: Donau-Universität Krems, Austria. A technical partner coordinates the project: Egalité des Chances dans les Etudes et la Profession d’Ingénieur en Europe, ECEPIE, France.

GenderTime is a research project funded by the European Commission in the 7th Framework Programme: "Science in Society" The Project duration is 48 months from 1st January 2013 to 3rd December 2016.

Detailed information about the Project can be found at: www.gendertime.org

Silvana Badaloni, EPWS BoA
See also http://www.gendertime.org/node/5

GenderTime Kick off meeting, Paris, 29th January 2013.

Yvonne Pourrat, EPWS member and GenderTime Coordinator is front left, Claudine Hermann is centre front and Silvana Badaloni is behind her wearing a hat.
COST Research Network “Gender, Science, Technology and Environment” (genderSTE) started at the end of 2012

On 28th November 2012 genderSTE - the first Targeted COST Network started with the kick off meeting held in Central COST office in Brussels. The new COST initiative -network of policy-makers and experts on gender, science and technology is aiming to enhance the implementation of gender-focused policy measures for structural change in science and technology institutions and integration of gender dimension in the content of science and technology.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of genderSTE, available on the COST Web site** contains detailed description of project. 22 participants representing delegations of 14 participating countries attended the inaugural meeting of COST Targeted Network TN1201.

The COST President addressed the Management Committee (MC) Members of TN1201, the first Targeted Network approved by the COST CSO under the Plan for Strategic Activities. The President in her welcome speech noted that the proportion of COST Actions chaired by female researchers has almost doubled since 2004 and the current proportion of COST Actions chaired by female researchers are very close to the proportion of preliminary proposals submitted by female researchers. During the meeting it was stated that by the date of the first MC meeting 16 countries had accepted the MoU. It was also recalled that according to the COST rules COST countries may accept the MoU within the twelve month period after the approval by the CSO. Thus COST countries wishing to join TN1201 have until 7 October 2013 to accept the MoU of the Targeted Network.

The MC elected Prof. Ines Sanchez De Madariaga (ES) as Chair of the Targeted Network. It was agreed that the Targeted Network will be carried out mainly through 3 Working Groups:

WG1: Promoting Structural and institutional change,
WG2: Promoting Gendered Innovations and
WG3: Mapping Gender in environment-related Horizon 2020 Grand Challenges.

The Targeted Network will function through Short Term Czech Scientific Missions (STMS).

EPWS is represented in the genderSTE MC by two EPWS BoA members: Assoc. Prof. Dalia Šatkovskienė (BASNET Forumas, Lithuania) and Dr Dóra Groó (Hungary).

EU Parliament: Committee of Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
Brussels, 8 January 2013


The full report can be downloaded at: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bREPORT%2bA7-2013-0002%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN

EU Council Conclusions on 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth'
Brussels, 12 December 2012

Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research

18. UNDERLINES that both national and EU-level strategies should be strengthened in order to make optimal use of female talent and of increased participation of talented and highly skilled women, including by establishing more attractive working conditions, and CONSIDERS that the integration of a gender dimension into the design, evaluation and implementation of research needs to be improved to effectively foster research and innovation excellence.

19. NOTES the intention of the Commission to propose in 2013 a Recommendation to Member States with common guidelines on institutional change to promote gender equality in universities and research institutions.


Call for expressions of interest for Contract Agents
European Commission

At the request of the European Commission and in particular the Joint Research Centre, the European Personnel Selection Office is setting up a database of successful candidates from which to recruit research contract staff (Contract Agents FGIV) for the provision of additional capacity.

The database of successful candidates will be used mainly by the European Commission and more particularly by the Joint Research Centre.

Liisa Husu: EPWS BoA

International Conference “Promoting Gender Equality in Science”
Vilnius 20 November 2012

Liisa Husu: EPWS BoA

BASNET Forumas
The conference was organized by BASNET Forums association and devoted to measures used for implementation of European gender mainstreaming policy in science in the Baltic States. During the conference the results obtained from the Lithuanian National project “Promoting Gender Equality in Science” (LYMOS) were presented. Amongst the invited speakers at the conference was the EPWS president Dr. Brigitte Mühlenbruch; Mrs. D. Grigolovičienė, representative of Lithuanian Equal opportunity office; Ms. M. Nommm head of Human resource department of Tartu University (Estonia); A. Gribauskienė, Lithuanian member of the Helsinki group in Women in Science and Lithuanian scientists and science policy makers.

During the project the legal basis regulating scientific activities was reviewed and an update of the national strategy ensuring equal opportunities in sciences was agreed; methods for institutional assessment reviewed; financial instruments, motivating greater awareness of gender related issues in universities and research institutions, were developed; and gender sensitive indicators were created and implemented into the national science monitoring system. Additionally, pilot schemes for financial support of projects directed towards retaining women in sciences after parental leave was implemented and training was organized.

The conference was followed by press conference attended by the president of the Lithuanian Academy of Science, EPWS president Dr. Brigitte Mühlenbruch, Head of Study, Research and Technology department of Lithuanian Ministry of Education and science Dr. A. Zalys and was moderated by BASNET Forums president Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dalia Satkovskienė. The news about the conference was distributed by ELTA, the Lithuanian news agency and presented in the most popular news portals DELFI and ALFA, published in Lithuanian newspapers.

The programme and details are at:

Dalia Šatkovskienė: EPWS BoA
Brigitte Mühlenbruch EPWS President

International Conference
“Gender, Science and Democracy”

Vilnius 21-22 June 2012

Ann Marks represented the EPWS at the international conference on Gender, Science and Democracy which was held in the Presidential Palace at Vilnius, 21-22 June
2012. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania within the Programme of Lithuanian coordination of Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) cooperation. The aim was to discuss issues of gender equality in education from the state level perspective with a special focus on the best examples and experiences. Delegates included representatives from the European Union’s Eastern Partnership, Mediterranean region, Middle East and African countries. Therefore the event combined experiences from different regions and cultures. Some speakers described the developments for women in science during regime changes, which because of greater freedom of choice and also financial restrictions did not necessarily result in an increase in the take up of science by young women.

The representative of the Association of Local Authorities and Regions in Sweden gave an intriguing talk explaining how even snow clearing can be arranged with gender awareness and save money! Also Dalia Šatkovskienė, EPWS BoA member, spoke about BASNET explaining that, in Lithuania, stereotypes are still a major barrier to increased inclusion of women in science.

Ann Marks moderated a plenary session on “Higher education as Precondition to Gender Equality” during which a complex picture emerged of urgent pressure for legislation. Yet demonstrating that legislation alone - whether in a democracy or not - does not always affect the expected cultural change. In many countries women role models in science are scarce and not well known. Culture may be oppressive, even violent, to women but gender equality must not be a personal choice so gender equality mainstreaming is vital for mind-sets to change. The session concluded that this is only possible through education.

During a breakout session Ann gave a short presentation on the work of the EPWS which raised a good amount of interest.


Ann Marks: EPWS BoA

"Women Scientists: Reality and representations from Antiquity to the 20th century”

France

Claudine Hermann attended in Brest, France, the history colloquium "Women Scientists - reality and representations from Antiquity to the 20th century".

She gave a talk in French entitled "Access of Women to Science in different European countries", describing the admission of women to university in Austria, France and Poland.
and presenting the portraits of a few great women scientists from the past, with a particularly European career: the Silesian astronomer Maria Cunitz (1610-1664); the German-Dutch entomologist Maria Sibylle Merian (1647-1717); the French physicist Emilie du Chatelet (1706-1749); the British astronomer of German Origin, Caroline Herschel (1750-1848); and the Scottish astronomer and mathematician, Mary Somerville (1780-1872).

More on these scientists can be found on the beautiful book by the European Commission "Women in Science" http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=wisaudiobook

Claudine Hermann, EPWS Vice-President

Benchmarking studies for MESR France

In autumn 2011 EPWS obtained a contract from the French ministry for Higher Education and Research (MSER) to write a benchmarking report: it questioned the ways different EU member states are organised to answer European calls on gender in research or research on gender, or to integrate gender in their research groups’ answers to European calls. You can find this report on the EPWS website at http://home.epws.org/filter/updates/Benchmarking-Report-French-Ministry-of-Higher-Education. Also the 2012 report on “Measures to raise women students’ awareness to scientific careers and to gender issues in different European countries” is at http://home.epws.org/filter/updates/EPWS-2012-report-to-the-French-Ministry-of-Higher-Education. A third report is expected in 2013.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank EPWS members who kindly provided information.

Claudine Hermann: EPWS Vice-President

AMONET Portugal


AMONET website: http://www.amonet.org/

Ana M. Lobo, EPWS BoA

EPWS as expert in DG Research programmes evaluations

EPWS was recently asked to participate as stakeholder expert to evaluations of two DG Research programmes: on April 19th 2012, Carole Paleco (EPWS and BeWiSe) participated to the evaluation of the European Research Area, she insisted on gender issues and made EPWS and BeWiSe visible. On April 25th, Claudine Hermann represented EPWS at the Science in Society programme evaluation: she stressed the difficulty for small Civil Society Organisations like EPWS to participate to European projects, in particular because such projects do not value volunteer work.

Claudine Hermann: EPWS Vice-President

Gender Bias in the USA - report


Yasmin Robson: EPWS BoA
Membership Application Form

Please fill in this form in CAPITAL LETTERS and send it to membership@epws.org:

Membership Type Requested (annual fee)
- Full Member (120€)
- Associate Member (100€)
- Individual Supporting Member (please specify which type)
  - Professor (30€)
  - Researcher (30€) (please specify)
  - Student (no fee) (please specify)
- Supporting Organisation (see also page 2)

Name of Organisation/Network/Individual Applicant:

Address:

Telephone Number/ Fax Number:

E-mail:

Website:

Research Area(s) Covered:

Is your organisation/are you a member of any other network(s)?

To be completed by applicants for Full Membership and Associate Membership
Name(s) and position(s) of authorised representatives:
1. 
2. 

How many members do you represent?

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Remember - EPWS depends on membership fees to continue to exist.

All membership fees for 2012 were due in January 2013. Fees should be paid by bank transfer using the IBAN bank system. Please see the ‘bank transfers’ page on the EPWS website at www.epws.org.

Please contact membership@epws.org if you have any problems regarding payment.

Thank you,
EPWS Executive

Notes from the Editor:

Dear Readers,

Please forward this newsletter to all who are interested in women in science issues as well as to all networks and individuals who might be interested in joining the EPWS.

EPWS members are invited to submit newsletter articles for future issues announcing or reporting news of their networks and the women in science events in their countries. Please mark the contributions ‘for the attention of the EPWS newsletter editor’ and send them to membership@epws.org. They may be submitted at any time.

Do visit the EPWS website at www.epws.org and the news pages at www.epws.net. Both websites are up-dated regularly.

Best regards,
Ann Marks EPWS Board of Administration

EPWS Email Contacts:

General enquiries: info@epws.org (e.g. requests for speakers and general information)
Membership applications and membership issues: membership@epws.org
For financial support and/or offers of in-kind: membership@epws.org or use the ‘donation’ section on the EPWS website.

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References
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Articles in this issue have been submitted by the Board of Administration and the Executive Committee.
Articles are invited from members of the EPWS for future issues.
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