



## **EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF WOMEN SCIENTISTS**





The European **Platform of Women Scientists EPWS** is an umbrella organization bringing together networks of women scientists and organizations committed to gender equality in scientific research in all disciplines in the 28 European Union (EU) Member States and the countries associated to the EU research programme. **EPWS** is a non-profit Belgian association (AISBL).

**EPWS** mission and activities are to represent, with democratic legitimacy and transparent decision-making structures, the concerns, needs, aspirations and interests of women scientists, in all stages of their career path, in dialogue with national, European and international institutions.

**EPWS** has a wide experience in European women and science issues and is ready and willing to share this expert knowledge.

## History in brief

In September 2003, the European Commission published an open call for creating a European Platform of Women Scientists. The call was won by Center of Excellence Women and Science CEWS in Bonn, Germany, who signed the final contract with the Commission as sole contractor in February 2005.

In the project set up, CEWS was supported by a Founding Board of high-ranking women scientists from a variety of disciplines from all over Europe in order to assure the integration of a variety of networks from the very beginning. The **EPWS** Secretariat in Brussels began work in January 2006. The Specific Support Action under the Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development ran until 31 October 2008. Because of its successful performance and increasing impact, **EPWS** was listed as a named beneficiary in the Capacities Science in Society Work Programme 2008 of the Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development FP7 to continue its activities.



However, in spite of various approaches to policy makers in Europe, no solution could be found regarding the Platform's lack of financial resources to sustain the running costs of **EPWS**. So, despite the high acceptance and acknowledged quality of the Platform's work, fulfilling an identified public need and an explicit political goal of the European Lisbon Agenda, since October 2009 the Platform has continued its activities and services on a voluntary basis of its members.

## Missions and goals

**EPWS's** missions are to:

- Promote women scientists;
- Represent the concerns, needs, ideas, aspirations and interests of European women scientists in all disciplines and all stages of their career paths;
- Coordinate support activities for women scientists to facilitate their active role in the European Research Area as researchers as well as participants in the research policy debate in Europe.

**EPWS's** main goals are:

- Increasing the participation of women scientists in European research policy and the shaping of the EU research agenda;
- Enhancing the participation of women in science and its decision-making bodies as well as in national and European research programmes, especially in EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development;
- Better understanding and integration of the gender dimension in science.



**EPWS's** main areas of activities are:

- Networking between member networks;
- Research Policy Making, giving women scientists a voice in EU research policy;
- Public Relations and Information including Electronic Platform;
- Increasing membership, with a particular emphasis on Central and Eastern Europe and the private sector;
- Public and Private Partnerships/ Fundraising.

## Activities

- A yearly General Assembly since 2007, mostly coupled to a European scientific colloquium related to the issue of Women and Science in Europe: "Women shaping science" (Vilnius 2008); "Scientific Culture, Communication, Gender – An Innovative Challenge for Women Scientists" (Brussels, 2009); "Women in Present and Future European Research" (Brussels 2010); "Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union" (Budapest 2011); "Gender Equality on the way to Horizon 2020 and in the ERC" (Brussels 2012); "Gender and Diversity at a German University" (Essen 2013);
- Organisation of national or European conferences on the Women and Science issue by the **EPWS** Executive Committee or **EPWS** Board of Administration;
- Around 30 yearly presentations of **EPWS** in various conferences and events all over Europe, made by the Executive Committee or Board of Administration;
- The **EPWS** Newsletters which have more than 1500 subscribers;
- Two constantly up-dated websites: [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org) about **EPWS** activities and the news-page [www.epws.net](http://www.epws.net) gathering European news for women scientists;



- Participation in the Policy Debate, through policy statements, as well as by providing responses to European Commission consultations, lunch-debates at the European Parliament etc., establishing contacts and increasing visibility among stakeholders;
- Participation in the European Commission's Network Women in Decision Making in Politics and the Economy (Directorate General Justice);
- Participation of **EPWS** members in many European projects related to the Women and Science issue;
- Participation in events for the promotion of science to young people, such as the "Expanding your Horizons" Conferences in Geneva (2009 and 2011).

## Current Activities

- Participation of **EPWS** members in several European projects, such as [genSET](#), [GenderTime](#), [GENIS LAB](#), [SHEMERA](#), [INTEGER](#), [GenderSTE](#);
- Responses to EC consultations:
  - **EPWS** Position Paper on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation *Horizon 2020*, March 2012 and November 2012;
  - Open letter to the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science on the campaign "Science, it's a girl thing!", June 2012.
- Production of benchmarking reports for the French ministry of Higher Education and Research;
- Organisation of a Lunch-debate at the European Parliament, January, 2012.
- Presentation in international or European conferences e.g.:
  - "Gender, Science and Democracy", Vilnius June 2012;
  - "Promoting Gender Equality in Science", Vilnius November 2012.



## Forthcoming Activities

They are presented in the **EPWS** Newsletters which can be downloaded from [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org).

Among the main forthcoming activities in 2013:

- Conference "Structural Change Producing Gender Equality in Research Organisations SAPGERIC", Vilnius November 2013;
- Strengthening the membership basis and continuous up-dating of the **EPWS** network database;
- More emphasis on the promotion of science and technology for young people in general and girls in particular;
- Preparing inputs to the EU policy debate such as position papers, replies to public consultations, letters to politicians;
- Enhancing the visibility of **EPWS** and its members.

## Who is who in the EPWS

### Executive Committee:

**President:** Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch (*Germany*)

**Vice-President:** Prof. Claudine Hermann (*France*)



### Board of Administration:

Dr. Dora Groo (*Hungary*)

Prof. Liisa Husu (*Finland*)

Prof. Ana Maria Lobo (*Portugal*)

Ann Marks (*United Kingdom*)

Dr. Lucia Martinelli (*Italy*)

Dr. Yasmin Robson (*United Kingdom*)

Prof. Dalia Satkovskiene (*Lithuania*)



## Linked associations

**EPWS Full members:** BeWiSe – Belgian Women in Science (*Belgium*); Bulgarian Association of University Women (*Bulgaria*); EUMENT-NET (*Switzerland*); KOFRAH (*Switzerland*); Deutscher Pharmazeutinnen Verband (*Germany*); CEWS e. V. (*Germany*); Gesellschaft Deutscher Akademikerinnen (*Germany*); National Conference of Gender Equality Officers in Higher Education- BUKOF (*Germany*), NUT-Frauen in Naturwissenschaft und Technik. V. (*Germany*), Deutscher Ingenieurinnenbund (*Germany*), Netzwerk Vorsorgendes Wirtschaften (*Germany*); Network of Women in Philosophy in Denmark (*Denmark*); FRAU-Female Researchers at Aarhus University (*Denmark*); EDEM- Greek Women's Engineering Association (*Greece*); AMIT- Asociacion de Mujeres Investigadoras y Tecnologas (*Spain*); Association for Women's Studies in Finland (*Finland*); Helsinki Association of women researchers (*Finland*); APMST - Association pour la Parité dans les Métiers Scientifiques et Techniques, ECEPIE - Egalité des Chances dans les Etudes et la Profession d'Ingénieur en Europe, *femmes et mathématiques*, Femmes & Sciences, Femmes Ingénieurs, Mnémosyne, WIN-Women in Nuclear France (*France*); Association of Hungarian Women in Science (*Hungary*); Donne e Scienza, Assemblea delle donne per lo sviluppo e la lotta all' esclusionesociale/ ASDO, Societa Italiana di Fisica, International Network of Research in Gender (*Italy*); Latvian Women in Science (*Latvia*); BASNET Forumas (*Lithuania*); GAIA-Network for Women in Earth Sciences, NIMF-Network for Informatics, Mathematics and Physics, LandelijkNetwerk Van Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren - Dutch Network of Women Professors (*The Netherlands*); FOKK-Association for Gender Research in Norway (*Norway*); Amonet- Portuguese Association of Women in Science (*Portugal*); EUWIIN- European Union of Women Inventors and Innovators, Women in Physics Group of the Institute of Physics, Daphnet (*United Kingdom*); European Society of Women in Theological Research (ESWTR), WIN-Women in Nuclear Europe, EU network Sustainability strategy, European network of women and gender archaeology (*Europe*); Armenhui - Armenian Women in Science (*Armenia*).

In addition to these **EPWS** integrates:

21 Associate Members, 91 Individual Members and 23 Supporting Organisations.



## Contact

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For membership applications and membership issues contact:  
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### **Executive Committee:**

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