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Editorial

Dear Readers,

A year ago, the European Platform of Women Scientists officially started its membership application process and the December Newsletter 2006 strongly encouraged all we had been in touch with before to join the Association. Here we are, at the end of 2007, with the First EPWS General Assembly behind, happy and proud to count 130 members from a wide range of disciplines and from more than 30 countries, together representing more than 11,000 women scientists – a figure that does not go unnoticed.

By joining the EPWS, networks of women scientists and networks promoting women scientists, whether already existing or in formation, equal opportunities organisations and other supporting institutions as well as individual researchers manifested their interest and active commitment to the goals and activities of the Platform.

We thank all of those who joined EPWS for their visible support and active participation in the EPWS General Assembly in Brussels on 27-28 April 2007, as well as for responding to numerous news alerts and providing the Platform with valuable inputs on various topics since.

Its growing membership gave an important push to the Platform's visibility in 2007, in Brussels as well as throughout Europe, among the scientific community as well as among policy makers.

EPWS is more and more recognised as an important point of reference in the EU research policy debate. We thank policy makers from the European Commission, the European Parliament and national governments as well as fellow NGOs in Brussels for their interest and active support.

In its capacity as structural link between the research community and policy makers, EPWS organised three lunch debates on equal opportunities in science and research in Brussels in 2007: a Lunch Debate on "Gender and FP7" (8 March 2007) with Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit Directorate General Research; a Lunch Debate on "50 years of Equal Opportunities between Men and Women. Facts, figures and solutions for the under-representation of women in science", hosted by Member of the European Parliament Zita Gurmai (4 July 2007); and the Lunch Debate "A Roadmap for Equality between women and men 2006-2010: Its implementation thus far with a special focus on women in science and research" with Belinda Pyke, Director at Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs (27 November 2007). The Platform was also invited to present its views in a Public Hearing on Women and Science in the European Parliament which will feed into an initiative report of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality next year.

Members of the EPWS Board of Administration and the EPWS Secretariat participated with presentations and posters at numerous events throughout Europe.

In the year to come, EPWS will expand its network with special attention to women scientists in Central Eastern European Countries and to women in industrial research. In the policy area, 'innovation' will follow 'excellence' as overarching theme. The

Platform also plans to start and facilitate a discussion on role models to encourage women to take up and pursue scientific careers.

Before we start with 2008, however, the EPWS Executive Committee and the team in Brussels express their warmest thanks for your initiative, support and commitment in 2007. We are looking forward to our collaboration in 2008. Warmest season's greetings and a happy New Year!

Adelheid Ehmke, *EPWS President*

Brigitte Mühlenbruch, *EPWS Vice President*

Mineke Bosch, *EPWS Treasurer*

Maren Jochimsen, *EPWS Secretary General*

Marianne Schwarz da Silva

Project Manager Networking

Pauleen Colligan

Project Manager Research Policy

Adelina Huminic-Orzu

Project Manager Information

Geneviève Saussé

Office Manager

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applications for Full, Associate, Organisations Supporting and Individual Supporting Membership are

OPEN.

The formal application forms are available online and must be accompanied by several documents according to the type of membership requested.

If your applications reach EPWS by the end of January 2008, they will be processed ahead of the General Assembly in 2008.

For further information, please contact Marianne Schwarz da Silva:

e-mail: marianne.dasilva@epws.org

tel.: +32 2 234 37 51

A Membership Application Form is included at the end of this newsletter.

News from EPWS Members

1. The FP6 project "Baltic States Network: Women in Sciences and High Technology" (BASNET) held its closing conference in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 22- 23 September 2007. The topics discussed were the situation of the women scientists in the Baltic States and the creation of a network to continue implementing measures of promotion of women scientists in the area.

Two TV channels, radio stations and main Lithuanian informational portals covered the conference and broadcasted interviews with participants on the issue of women in science.

<http://www.basnet-fp6.eu>

2. AMIT (Asociación de Mujeres Investigadoras y Tecnólogas / Association of Women in Research and Technology) organised its General Assembly together with the conference: "Challenges and Actions of Women Scientists", in Madrid (Spain) on 16th November 2007.

<http://www.amit-es.org/>

3. The Commission on Gender and Geography, part of the International Geographical Union, organised the symposium "Transnational Lives: Feminist Perspectives on Citizenship, Home and Belonging" in Taipei (Taiwan), on 23-26 November 2007. The symposium provided a platform to rethink existing notions of transnational space from the perspectives of women and gender that is contextualised in a wide range of societies.

<http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/igugender/activities.html>

4. NIMF (Netwerk voor Informatica en Mathematiek en Fysica / Network for Informatics, Mathematics and Physics) organised the seminar "Further with NLP!" on Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in Utrecht (the Netherlands), on 24 November 2007.

<http://www.stichtingnimf.nl/>

5. gFFZ (Das gemeinsame Frauenforschungszentrum der Hessischen Fachhochschulen (GFFZ) / Joint Women Study Centre of Hessian Universities of Applied Sciences) organises a public colloquium on Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt/Main (Germany) from 16th October 2007 until 22nd January 2008.

http://www.gffz.de/1_3_17.html

6. Mnemosyne (Association pour le développement de l'histoire des femmes et du genre / Association for the Development of Women's and Gender History) organises a workshop on "Should one be a feminist to write and teach on women's history and gender?", in Paris (France), on 26th January 2008.

<http://www.mnemosyne.asso.fr/index.php?page=journee-d-etudes-2008>

7. In 2008, the IUEM (Instituto universitario de estudios de la mujer / Women Studies University Institute) of the Autonomous University of Madrid organises the 3rd edition of the prize Ángeles Durán for scientific innovation in women studies and gender.

http://portal.uam.es/portal/page/portal/UAM_ORGANIZATIVO/OrganosGobierno/VicerrectoradoInfraestructuraProm/Institutomujer

EPWS in 2007: From people to members

EPWS is an ever expanding umbrella organisation of existing and newly created networks of women scientists and organisations promoting women scientists of all disciplines all over Europe. Membership to the association officially opened at the end of 2006 with four suggested types of membership: full, associate, supporting organisational and individual memberships. First applications were received in December 2006.

Less than 6 months later and ahead of the First EPWS General Assembly hosted in Brussels on 28-27 April 2007, EPWS counted 107 members. Nearly a year after the first membership applications were received, EPWS has accepted 130 members into the association, together representing more than 11,000 women scientists all over Europe.

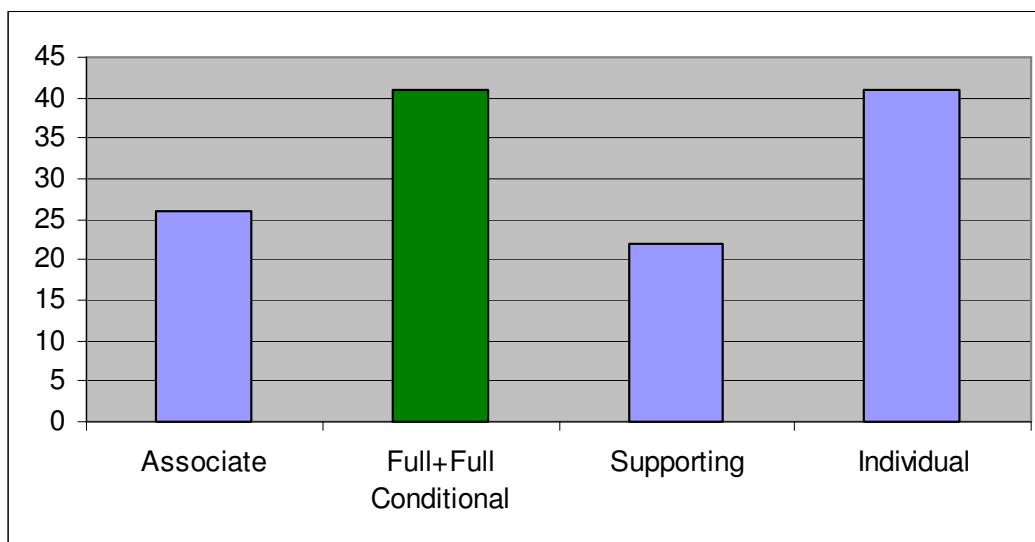


Chart 1: Membership by Categories - October 2007

Of the 89 networks and organisations among EPWS members, 46% have full membership rights and obligations, 29% are associate members and 25% are supporting organisations. The Platform furthermore counts 41 individual supporting members, many of them from countries with few network structures but interested and active in the creation of new networks.

To establish a solid geographical basis, EPWS made an effort to welcome at least one representative from each of the EU27 Member States as member. As can be seen in *Chart 2*, however, some disparities do exist between the countries, also reflecting differences in approaches to networking and existing networking structures.

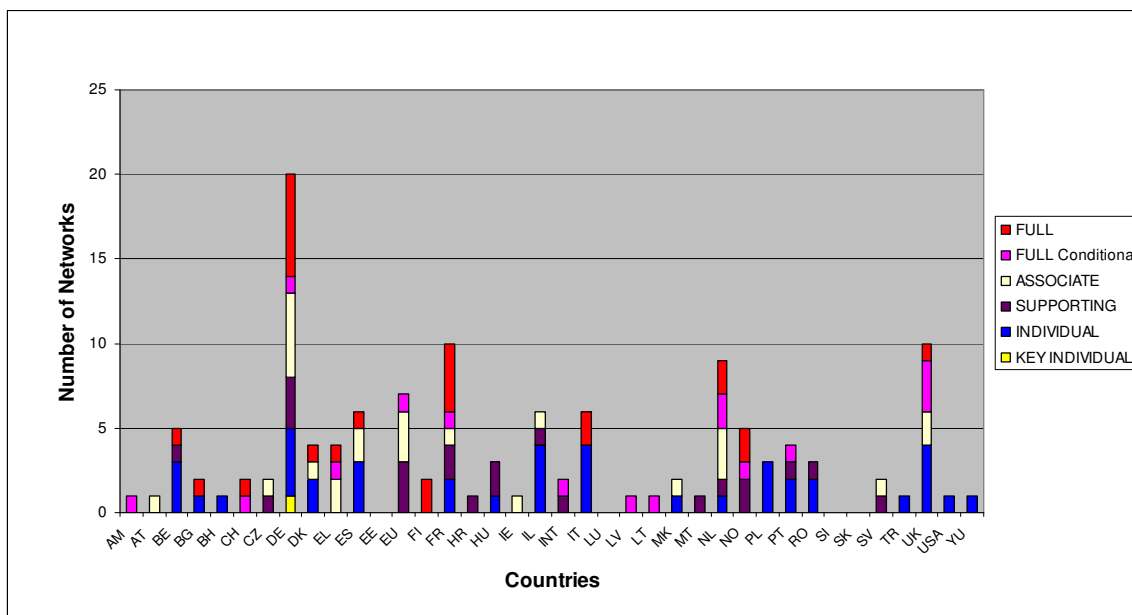


Chart 2: Membership Type by Country - October 2007

Chart 3 highlights the broad disciplines in which EPWS member networks are active. At present there is a fair representation between Social Science and Humanities (29%), Multidisciplinary – encompassing the whole spectrum of disciplines - (30%), and Natural Science and Engineering (33%). 7% of the Platform's members specialize in Mentoring, whilst members active in Entrepreneurship account for 1%.

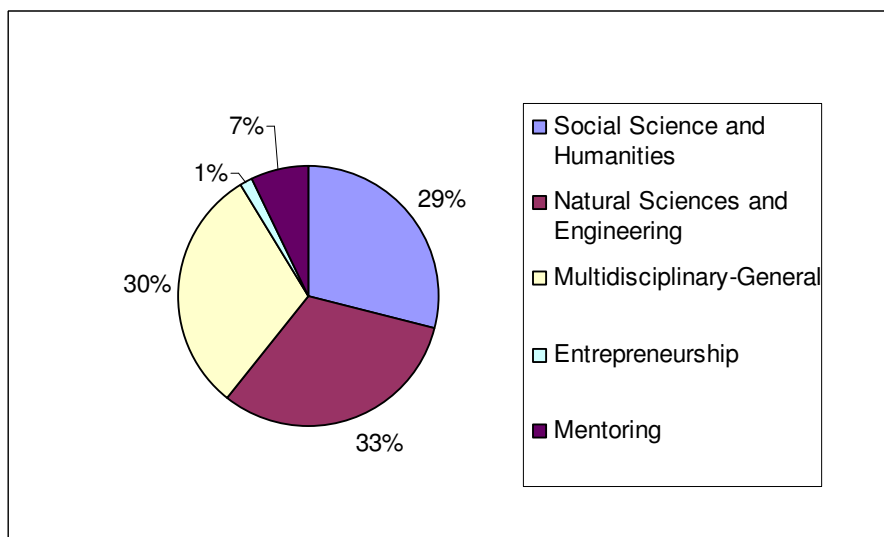


Chart 3: Representation of Disciplines among Full/ Full Conditional/ Associate Members - October 2007

Since November 2007, short portraits of EPWS members and links to their respective websites are available on the EPWS website

http://www.epws.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=134&Itemid=4652.

Have a look and get to know your fellow members or the community of women scientists you would like to join.

In 2008, EPWS will strive to expand its membership to networks, associations and other interested institutions across Europe to achieve an even more encompassing spread of disciplines, such as in the field of Economics or Political Sciences and Medicine, and more specifically reach out to women scientists in Central Eastern European countries as well as to women in industrial research and their employing institutions to further strengthen its membership basis. Acting on its mission, EPWS furthermore endeavours to support researchers interested and active in the creation of new disciplinary or national networks across Europe and will continue to offer its competence in the field. The Platform will also continuously attempt expand the range of services it can offer to its members.

If EPWS is to represent women researchers from all over Europe and all disciplines and make their voice(s) heard, the help of all current members and readers of our Newsletter is needed in joining forces with the Platform to achieve this end. The legitimacy and credibility of the Platform on both EU and national levels will depend on the size and the composition of its membership body. The bigger and encompassing the EPWS membership basis, the stronger the voice of women scientists in the EU research policy debate!

Your membership counts: Do not hesitate to contact us for any questions regarding membership, application procedures, benefits and fees. EPWS is an inclusive association and we will do our best to make your voice count.

To join the Second EPWS General Assembly on 6 June 2008, please send us your applications by the end of January 2008 so we may process them in time.

FP7 2008 Work programmes published

In December 2007, the European Commission released the 2008 work programmes for Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities and Euratom Programmes.

All these work programmes are published on the Cordis website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html

Scientific information in the digital age

The Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted the "Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age: access,

dissemination and preservation" during its meeting in Brussels on 23rd November 2007.

By this document, the Council invites the Member States of the European Union to:

- ✓ reinforce national strategies and structures for access to and preservation and dissemination of scientific information, tackling organisational, legal, technical and financial issues,
- ✓ enhance the co-ordination between Member States, large research institutions and funding bodies on access, preservation and dissemination policies and practices,
- ✓ maximise access for researchers and students to scientific publications,
- ✓ ensure the long term preservation of scientific information - including

publications and data - and pay due attention to scientific information in national information preservation strategies.

For further details on the measures foreseen by the Council in the field of access, dissemination and preservation of scientific information:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/97236.pdf

New money available for research from FP7

On 30th November 2007 the European Commission issued calls for proposals in 32 research areas, making available about €1.75 billion from the 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7).

Areas for support include environmental issues such as sea-level rise and the impact of climate change on Arctic Ocean eco-systems, the impact of UV radiation on human health and modeling the future impact of energy use on the environment. In the food, agriculture and fisheries and biotechnology theme, projects are sought to promote a better understanding of obesity and also find new methods for the production of clean and carbon-efficient bio-fuels. Funds will be made available for the Marie Curie International Staff Exchange scheme, which will strengthen the relationships of European research organisations with their international counterparts, and there are specific calls for proposals working with researchers in India on materials and Russia on energy.

Other areas covered are: research infrastructures, regions of knowledge, the role of science in society and support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

For further information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=28785

ERC Advanced Grant Scheme

The European Research Council (ERC) published the call for the Advanced Grant

Scheme on 30th November 2007. With a budget of €4 billion, the ERC aims at supporting the very best research projects and the most talented advanced researchers across Europe.

Depending on the nature of the research, ERC Advanced Grants may be up to €3.5 million for a period of 5 years. While the Starting Grant scheme aims to boost the career and performance of young investigators by supporting early scientific independence, Advanced Grants will target researchers who already have established themselves as exceptional leaders in their field.

ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality, working or planning to work in Europe, and working in any field of science or engineering.

For further information:

Fact Sheet on the “ERC Advanced Grant”

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/AdG_Factsheet_2007.pdf

ERC Work Programme 2008

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/wp2008_Final.pdf

ERC awards first Starting Grants

On 14th December 2007, European Research Council (ERC) announced the outcome of its first competition for Starting Independent Investigators. About 300 up-and-coming research leaders, between two and nine years after their doctorate, will receive grants.

Over 9000 applications were submitted by the deadline of 25 April 2007, by Principal Investigators (PIs) of 88 nationalities, in conjunction with host institutions based in all parts of the EU and countries associated to the research framework programme. Of the 559 successful candidates at the first stage, 554 investigators of 38 nationalities in 21 countries submitted full proposals, of which 431 passed the quality thresholds for excellence.

The ERC hopes to fund some 300 of these already prioritised quality proposals, representing 32 nationalities of PIs and around 170 host institutions in 21 countries. The average age of successful grantees is 35 and

26% are women. Candidates will be notified individually in the course of December 2007. The first grants will be signed in February 2008.

The ERC Scientific Council will evaluate the process and the outcome in order to fine-tune this grant scheme for the next Starting Grant call, which will be published by the summer of 2008.

For further information:

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/press_release-14122007_en.pdf

NoE concerned with their future

Partners of Networks of Excellence (NoEs) met on 20th November 2007 to debate on the future of the Networks of Excellence as an EU research policy instrument.

The participants were concerned with the unclear future of the NoEs. They emphasised the risks of interruption of several successful initiatives which brought together many research institutes and universities from all 27 member states.

The networks launched under FP6 have difficulties to secure financing once the EU funding has been used. The average €7 million EU contribution (double that of an ordinary EU-funded project) allows for three to five years of activity, but durable integration takes more time.

Introduced under the 6th Framework Programme for Research (FP6), NoEs were designed to overcome the fragmentation of European research on particular topics by durably integrating different partners' research capacities.

For further information on the NoEs position, please read their opinion paper at:

http://www.supportresearchnoes.eu/files/Opinion_Paper_2007-10-05_3.pdf

New international social science award

The Chinese entrepreneurs Shu Kai and Angela Chan have enabled the Wissenschafts-

zentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB) to award a prize in social science worth €100,000 every two years. The prize recognizes research that contributes to social and political reform. The first prize recipient of the A.SK Social Science Award is the British economist Sir Anthony Atkinson.

An additional post-doc fellowship programme for young researchers will also be established. These will give young social scientists the time, for example after conferral of a doctorate degree, to translate a dissertation into English for publication in book form.

For further information:

http://wzb.eu/presse/mitteilungen_2007/chan_p_reis.en.htm

New Forum launched to promote philanthropic support for research

The European Commission announced the creation of a new Forum to increase philanthropic contributions for research, on 4th December 2007. The idea of such a Forum was raised by a group of experts asked by the Commission to make recommendations as to how Europe should go about making better use of charitable and private donations to advance research.

The European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding will be initially established for a period of three years and will examine issues such as: the research funding policies of existing philanthropic organisation; legal, fiscal and regulatory issues; and governance and ethical issues.

Source: News Alert of the European Commission, 4/12/2007

Network on Ethnicity and Women Scientists

A new Network on Ethnicity and Women Scientists (NEWS) was created on 11-12 October 2007 on the occasion of the Workshop on Gender and Diversity organised by the FP6 NEWS project in Brussels.

Women scientists in research and academic careers in seven EU countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, and United Kingdom) attended this event and constituted the core members of the new network.

The aim of NEWS is to support and promote Black, migrant, refugee and minority women scientists in teaching and research professions at national and European level. The network also aims to raise awareness of the national and European scientific community to gender and diversity in science.

For further information:

<http://newschemist.ulb.ac.be>

Celebrating Women of Outstanding Achievement in SET

Six contemporary women in the UK will be celebrated by the 2008 photographic exhibition dedicated to women in science, engineering and technology (SET).

Nominations have been open for women scientists who can be regarded as an inspiration to others and who make a significant contribution to science, engineering, technology or the built environment in the following three categories:

- ✓ Communication of SET with, and contribution to, society
- ✓ SET discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship
- ✓ SET Leadership and inspiration to others

Two candidates will be selected in each of the three categories.

For further information:

<http://www.wooa.org.uk/index.htm>

Stockholm Challenge Award 2008

The Stockholm Challenge promotes Information & Communications Technology (ICT) for development with a six category award for projects using ICT to tackle the world's biggest problems.

The award is open for applications from 1st January to 31st December 2007.

For further information:

<http://www.stockholmchallenge.se/about>

Future of German Research: Not without Mothers!

The German UNESCO Commission and L'Oréal Germany, in cooperation with the Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard-Stiftung, offer grants of €20,000 to three excellent women scientists with children.

Applicants can be Post Doc students with children and women scientists in experimental life sciences, medicine and other disciplines who have long-hours working time.

Deadline: 31 December 2007

For further information:

<http://www.fwis-programm.de/>

Database of Expert Women Life Scientists

Women molecular biologists are invited to register to the ELSO Database of Expert Women in the Molecular Life Sciences.

The database aims to help scientists, universities, research institutions, political institutions, conference organisers and journal editors to identify appropriately qualified women scientists:

- ✓ as candidates for professorships and other positions
- ✓ to speak at conferences and in seminar programmes
- ✓ to participate in advisory groups, on monitoring panels, committees and commissions
- ✓ to review manuscripts, to write commissioned reviews and to serve on the editorial boards of journals.

For further information and registration:

<http://www.elseo-cdc.org/M11.shtm>

Call for membership: International Society of Gender Medicine

The International Society of Gender Medicine (IGM), created in 2006, is looking for new members.

For further information on IGM and membership issues:

<http://www.charite.de/gender/englisch/igm.htm>

IAS-STs Fellowship Programme 2008-2009

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STs) in Graz, (Austria) promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society as well as technology assessment and research into the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies.

The IAS-STs invites researchers to apply for a stay between 1st October 2008 and 30th June 2009 as

- ✓ Research Fellow (up to nine months) or as
- ✓ Visiting Scholar (shorter period, e.g. a month).

For further information:

www.sts.tugraz.at

UNESCO Report on Science, Technology and Gender

In November 2007, UNESCO released "Science, Technology and Gender: an International Report", which has been prepared with the active partnership of specialists in areas relating to science, technology and gender from numerous institutions worldwide. Executive summaries of the Report are published in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

For further information:

http://www.unesco.org/science/psd/focus/focus07/gender_rep.shtml

Upcoming Events

1. International Conference *Academic Publishing in Europe (APE 2008)*, Berlin (Germany), 21-23 January 2008

<http://www.ape2008.eu/index.html>

2. *The 6th International Conference on Naval Technologies (TEHNONAV 2008)*, Constanta (Romania), 22-24 May 2008

<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/imim/TehnonavCall.htm>

3. *Draw the line! Cultural boundary making in everyday academic work life*, Aarhus (Denmark), 30-31 May 2008

www.upgem.dk

4. *Gender Medicine Congress*, Heidelberg (Germany), 6-8 June 2008

<http://www.pharmazeutinnen.de/ShowPage.php?PId=228&LangId=0&NavId=485>

5. *A changing world: new opportunities for women engineers and scientists (ICWES14)*, Lille (France), 15-18 July 2008

<http://www.icwes14.org/icwes14-en>

Published by: EPWS

Rue d'Arlon 38, B-1000 Brussels

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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>

Name of Association:
Name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) authorised to represent:
1.
2.
Address:
Telephone Number/ Fax Number:
E-mail:
Website:
Research Area(s) Covered:
Membership Type Requested (fee for 2008)
Full Member (120 €)
Associate Member (100 €)
Individual Supporting Member
Professor (30 €)
Researcher (30 €) (please specify)
Student (no fee) (please specify)
Supporting Organisation
Choice of Standing Committee
Monitoring the Policy Debate
Gender Dimension in Science
Promotion of Women Scientists
Information and Public Relations
Structural Reinforcement
Is your organisation/are you a member of any other network(s)?
I accept EPWS' Terms and Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> (online at www.epws.org)
Date, Place, Signature :

Your personal data are for EPWS internal use only and will not be transmitted to third parties.