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Editorial

Dear Readers,

A new year has started, the Seventh EU Framework Programme of Research and Technological Development (FP7) is in its second year, and numerous chances for collaboration between the European Platform of Women Scientists and its members as well as among the Platform's members are upcoming!

EPWS members are actively involved in FP7 at different levels: as applicants, beneficiaries, evaluators and providing the Platform with feedback on current work programmes and calls. Furthermore, the Platform is increasingly contacted by members and others with

expressions of interest in collaboration regarding open calls for tenders and proposals. We highly appreciate your initiative in this respect and regret that we cannot follow all of them.

The Platform will also continue to explore possibilities for projects and partnerships with its corporate members and beyond to learn more about the situation of women in industrial research.

Encouraged by your active participation in the EPWS debate on Excellence and our request for sharing best practices, the results of which you will find documented further below, we would appreciate to continue our exchange of ideas in 2008. Next to taking-up Innovation as this year's overarching theme in the research policy area, the Platform aims at inspiring a

discussion on and to understand what the scientific community of women scientists – in industry and academia – considers an encouragement for engaging in scientific careers, taking into account national, cultural, disciplinary and field differences and specificities.

Last but not least, we look forward to your active involvement and hope to meet you in person at the EPWS Annual Conference and General Assembly in Vilnius on 5-7 June 2008. A call for papers and posters as well as the preliminary programme will be available soon.

We are looking forward to a year of numerous possibilities of cooperation and active mutual involvement in members' as well as EPWS activities.

Have a good and successful 2008!

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

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 February 2008, they will be processed ahead of the General Assembly in 2008.

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.

EPWS 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The EPWS 2008 Annual Conference will take place in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 5-7 June 2008.

The EPWS General Assembly will be held on 6 June 2008.

More information on these events will be soon published on 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

News from EPWS Members

1. BeWiSe (Belgian Women in Science), in collaboration with EPWS and with the support of the Belgian Institute for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, is organising a series of seminars entitled "Enhance your potential. Three days to advance the career of women scientists in Belgium", in January and February 2008.

<http://bewise.naturalsciences.be/>

2. The Cambridge Association for Women in Science and Engineering organised its Annual General Meeting and Networking Event in Cambridge (UK) on 22 January 2008.

<http://www.camawise.org.uk/>

3. Delft Women in Science (DEWIS) organises a series of seminars for women scientists on practical information to enhance their career, in February and March 2008.

<http://www.tudelft.nl/live/pagina.jsp?id=dd11e77e-3d33-48d2-a1c1-350f480051aa&lang=nl>

4. The European Women Inventors & Innovators Network (EUWIIN) organises the symposium "Innovative tools for energy efficiency & emerging new markets" in Cardiff (Wales) on 10-11 March 2008.

<http://www.euwiin1.eventbrite.com/>

5. Innov.Europe organises the 2008 Excellencia Awards for women engineers who demonstrated success in managing both their professional and their personal life. Initially targeting France, this year's edition has a European dimension, as calls for nominations are encouraged from all over Europe for the five categories: 'Fundamental Research', 'Applied Research', 'At the vendor or provider', 'At the user' and 'Young Excellencia Awards'.

http://www.excellencia.eu/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

6. NIKK has signed a new contract with The Nordic Council of Ministers for the period 2008-2010. As a result NIKK changes its name to Nordic Gender Institute on 1 January 2008.

http://www.nikk.uio.no/index_e.html

Sharing of best practices

Some months ago EPWS sent a news alert to its members asking for input and a sharing of experiences and knowledge on best practices in terms of what has worked in attracting women to research careers and retaining them in these careers.

The purpose of this request was to help the Platform make a real and valuable contribution to the drawing up of an own-initiative report of the European Parliament on the subject of "Women and Science". EPWS felt that this task had a very worthy and practical objective as helping make the European Parliament more

aware of the real experiences of women researchers could go a long way towards creating a genuinely more gender-friendly EU research policy and infrastructure. The Platform was therefore delighted to receive so many contributions from members and once again we take the opportunity to thank all those who sent in their ideas and experiences

As a result of all the suggestions received the Secretariat compiled a list of recommendations outlining these best practices and presented this list to the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) drafting this report. EPWS Secretary-General Maren Jochimsen also spoke at a Public Hearing in the European Parliament in December 2007 on the subject of

the report – Women and Science – and on how to increase the participation of women at all levels and again discussed this list and the contributions of you, our members.

We felt this list of best practices could be of great use and interest for our members. The list has therefore been uploaded onto our Member's Area of our website for all those wishing to access it.

If any of those who contributed feel their suggestions have not been clearly explained in the document, please be sure to contact us at the following address:

pauleen.colligan@epws.org.

Otherwise if members think of other good practices, you are of course always welcome to send them in to us, as such information is greatly appreciated.

Outcome of the EPWS Debate on Excellence

First and foremost EPWS would like to extend a big thank you to all those who participated in the Platform's excellence debate, be through responding to our on-line questionnaire, through taking part in our "Measuring Excellence" debate, held at the WISER Festival in Maastricht on 5 October 2007, or through expressing your views in emails or in more informal meetings and discussions.

While the issue of excellence in research will continue to exist and be hotly-debated (and rightly so!), EPWS has gathered all the responses received from you thus far to give a round-up of all your views on the matter.

The full report on 'excellence' devised by EPWS is published on the welcome page of the website: www.epws.org

Two new executive agencies for FP7

Two new agencies were established on 14 December 2007 with the task to manage the R&D project proposal and evaluation process for the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). Their aim is to increase the efficiency of research management and

liberate the Commission's resources for policy-making.

The European Research Council Executive Agency is dedicated to the management of the basic research projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC). The other agency, the Research Executive Agency, will manage the process of receiving proposals and organise their evaluation for the whole FP7 programme. According to the Commission, in 2007 alone, the number of proposals to be evaluated reached 27,000 and required the hosting of 8,000 experts.

For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1930&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Strategy on investing public money in high-risk technological research

The Commission adopted a new strategy on investing public money in high-risk technological research by publishing the Communication on "Pre-commercial procurement: Driving innovation to ensure sustainable high quality public services in Europe", on 14 December 2007.

The aim of this document is to give flexibility to procurers of innovative new products and services without interfering with state aid rules, procurement regulations or WTO obligations.

It is also expected to help reduce the research investment gap with the United States, as the European public sector has enormous purchasing power of €1,700 billion but currently only 0.15% (less than €3 billion) is used for procuring the research and development of new products and services.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/priv_invest/pcp/documents/commpcp.pdf

Priorities of the EU Slovenian Presidency

On 1 January 2008, Slovenia took over the 6-month Presidency of the European Union.

Among the priorities of its mandate, in terms of research and development (R&D) and innovation policies, there are: to oversee the further development of the European Research Area (ERA), and particularly to address key policy areas such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), the European Institute of Technology (EIT), research infrastructures, women in science and strengthening research ties with the Western Balkan countries.

With regard to the women in science issue, the Slovenian Presidency wants to bring a new impetus to the issue by introducing examples of best practice of "family-friendly scientific careers". An integrated model based on a policy mix addressing the whole life cycle of the scientific career from the beginning through all stages up to the highest decision-making positions will be put forward.

More concretely, in the framework of the informal meetings of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) and of the Council's Research Working Party on 7 and 8 February 2008, several issues will be discussed: the results of a study on "Women in Research Decision-Making", the activities of the Helsinki Group for Women and Science at the European Commission as well as the concept of the Slovenian national programme "Young researchers" including examples of best practice.

The aim of the Slovenian Presidency's approach is to develop an integrated model based on a policy mix addressing the whole life cycle of the scientific career from the beginning through all stages up to the highest decision-making positions, enabling to increase the number of researchers which is of key importance for the full realisation of ERA.

For further information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/slovenia/presidency/welcome_en.html

Encouraging the participation of women in the technology sector

The European Parliament adopted a non-binding report on the role of women in industry on 17 January 2008. This report aims at encouraging action to promote equality and

female entrepreneurship and the participation of women in the technology sector.

The role of women in industry varies as a result of their variable representation in different sectors. Women are over-represented in some sectors, such as textiles, garments, cabling, electrical and electronic equipment and food but under-represented in cutting-edge technology sectors.

The Parliament calls on the Member States and the Commission to develop and implement strategies to address discrepancies in the work environment and the career development of women working in science and technology.

On average, around 14% of women in employment in the EU work in industry, but this figure rises to 25% in some countries; of that average 21% are employed on a part-time basis and women represent 65% of part-time workers in this sector.

For further information:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/info_press_page/014-18600-014-01-03-902-20080115IPR18589-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

EC Annual Report on gender equality

The European Commission released the 5th Annual Report on Gender Equality on 23 January 2008.

The Commission's conclusion is that, while increasing numbers of women are working, they remain underrepresented in sectors considered crucial for economic development and better remunerated.

The report shows that the female employment rate has been steadily increasing since 2000 and that the unemployment rate for women has fallen to its lowest level for ten years. However, the pay gap, labour market segregation, and work-life balance are ongoing challenges that undermine the qualitative aspect of jobs, found the report.

Regarding women's employment rate, significant differences exist at national level across the EU. In Malta, it was of 34.9% compared to more than 70% in Sweden and Denmark.

As for the pay gap, it has remained steady at 15% since 2003. The biggest differences are found in Estonia (25%), Cyprus, Slovakia, Denmark, the UK, Finland and Austria (all 20% or more). The smallest differences were observed in Malta (3%), Belgium (7%) and Slovenia (8%).

The report also highlights women's increasing share of part-time work. In 2007, the share of women employees working part-time was 31.4% in the EU27, while the corresponding figure for men was of 7.8%.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/gender_equality/docs/com_2008_0010_en.pdf

Sustainable initiative on women in science in Austria

After a very successful five-year trial period, Austria will continue its scheme for supporting women in science.

The 'Women in Research and Technology' (fFORTE) scheme succeeded in encouraging more women to study science, work at universities and in industry between 2002 and 2007. The proportion of women receiving a doctorate in technical, scientific or medical subjects has risen from 28% to 32%. The scheme is supported by four ministries, meaning that the target group is varied, ranging from schoolchildren to researchers to businesses.

The new phase will run from 2009 until 2012. One of the priorities will be to increase the number of women working at universities, at research institutes, and in industry. The women in these positions should also hold higher level jobs than is often the case currently. Other ongoing priorities include improving the science education of younger schoolchildren; increasing the number of women scientists representing Austria at international level; introducing gender mainstreaming to research structures and programmes; and raising awareness of women in science within universities, businesses and politics.

For further information:

<http://www.fforte.at/>

Source: Cordis News, 18/12/2007

Call for papers: Women in science and technology

In preparation of the Sociology of Science and Technology Network Workshop, which will take place in Zagreb (Croatia), on 5-6 June 2008, a call for papers has been launched on the role of women in science and technology (S&T).

Contributions on the following issues are particularly encouraged:

- ✓ What are the social, economic, political, socio-cultural and socio-psychological barriers to women entering S&T?
- ✓ What are the characteristics and the possible sociological explanation of gender differences in career patterns and professional positions of researchers?
- ✓ What are the characteristics of the research productivity of women and what factors inside and outside S&T could explain them?
- ✓ How does the social organization of science and R&D, and family and value-motivational factors influence the professional success of female researchers?
- ✓ What is the role of women scientists in the relations between S&T and the public and how are they perceived by the public and in the media?
- ✓ To what extent do the role and position of women in S&T differ with respect to certain (groups of) countries, wider regions and cultures?
- ✓ How can S&T policies contribute to reducing gender differentiation in science?
- ✓ Which theoretical and methodological approaches could be fruitful in studying gender issues in S&T?

Deadline: 29 February 2008

An abstract of up to 400 words, containing an outline of the paper, including methodology as well as the expected contribution of the paper, should be submitted by e-mail to the members of the Workshop Organising Committee.

For further information:

http://www.europeansociology.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=8&Itemid=20

Call for papers: ICWES14

The International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES14), "A changing world: new opportunities for women engineers and scientists", will be held in Lille (France), on 15-18 July 2008.

Papers can be submitted on the following topics:

- ✓ Sustainable development including aspects such as energy, climate change, water resources, transport, agriculture, etc.
- ✓ The place of information technology and communications (ICT) in industry
- ✓ Women and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- ✓ Diversity and gender equality in STEM

Deadline: 17 February 2008

For further information:

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

Joint European Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies

The Women's Studies Centre, University of Lodz, organises the second edition of GEMMA ("Joint European Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies"). This is a two-year programme within Erasmus Mundus addressed to students interested in women's and gender studies, as well as in equal opportunities policies. The programme provides a possibility to acquire professional qualifications and to benefit from the mobility as students are expected to study at different European universities.

Deadline: 31 May 2008

For more information on the partner universities, the GEMMA project and application procedures:

<http://www.ugr.es/~gemma>

Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship 2008

As part of Google's ongoing commitment to encourage women to excel in computing and technology, the Google Europe Anita Borg

Memorial Scholarship 2008 has been launched.

The scholarship aims to encourage women to excel in computing and technology, and become active role models and leaders. The scholarship recipients will each receive a €5,000 (or equivalent) scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Deadline: 18 February 2008

For further information:

<http://www.google.com/anitaborg-europe/>

Science Foundation Ireland/DELL Scholarship 2008 – Young Women in Engineering

The Science Foundation Ireland/DELL Scholarship 2008 – Young Women in Engineering aims to attract and encourage more high-achieving young women into third-level education in engineering disciplines in Ireland. The Scholarship is supported by DELL which will supply all the scholars with notebook computers.

For further information:

http://www.sfi.ie/content/content.asp?section_id=593&language_id=1

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

Academics of all disciplines from abroad, who are internationally recognised as leaders in their field, are eligible to be nominated for an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship.

The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, which is being financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research through the International Research Fund for Germany, enables award winners to carry out long-term and ground-breaking research at universities and research institutions in Germany. The prize money, totalling €5 million for academics in experimental disciplines and €3.5 million for researchers in theoretical disciplines, is being made available for a period of five years.

Deadline: 2 June 2008

For further information:

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/ahp.htm>

Upcoming Events

1. *4th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education*, Barcelona (Spain), 31 March-2 April 2008
<http://www.guni-rmies.net/k2008/page.php?lang=2&id=32>
2. *2nd INNANO Symposium on Advances in nanomedicine and nanobiotechnology*, Innsbruck (Austria), 9-11 April 2008
<http://www.innano.org/>
3. *Women's Worlds - 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women*, Madrid (Spain), 3-9 July 2008
http://www.mmww08.org/index.cfm?nav_id=51
4. *XXth International Congress of Genetics*, Berlin (Germany), 12-17 July 2008
<http://www.geneticsberlin2008.com/>
5. *EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF)*, Barcelona, (Spain), 18-22 July 2008
<http://www.esof2008.org/>

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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.