



European Platform of Women Scientists NEWSLETTER, Issue 13, July-August 2007

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Summer draws to a close, Brussels is filling with people and activities, and Europe-wide conference season is starting. Members of the European Platform of Women Scientists, its Executive Committee, Board of Administration and Secretariat will be actively involved in the organisation and on the programmes of numerous events. We are very much looking forward to meet you, members and future members at these occasions. Please do not hesitate to approach us when you spot us. We are always there to personally meet you!

Please also note the place and date of the next EPWS Annual Conference and General Assembly. Following the kind invitation of EPWS Board of Administration Member Dalia Šatkovskienė, initiator and coordinator of BASNET, the "Baltic States Network: Women in Sciences and High Technology", the Annual

Conference and the Second EPWS General Assembly are scheduled to take place in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 5-7 June 2008.

Since the First EPWS General Assembly and Standing Committee Meetings in Brussels on 27-28 April 2007, EPWS has welcomed new members, and is now counting 117 members, together representing more than 10.000 researchers all over Europe.

The EPWS call for membership is continuously open and many potential members have been contacted by the Secretariat in the last two months. Again, we sincerely encourage you to join the European Platform of Women Scientists as full, associate or supporting members. A strong membership base is the Platform's strongest argument – in the policy debate as well as with respect to future funding opportunities.

To still enjoy free membership and benefit from EPWS information and services for members at no expense in 2007, please hand in your

membership application before 15 September 2007.

If you have any questions, want to share your experiences and ideas, are looking for a project partner, you are always welcome to get in touch with us electronically, by telephone or to visit us at the EPWS offices in Brussels.

This newsletter furthermore contains an offer for collaboration with respect to your future applications for EU funding. Do not hesitate to contact us if you look for a partner to execute the work package “communication and dissemination of information” of your project.

In April 2007, EPWS invited the science and research community to share their views on the most pressing obstacles in European research to feed back their inputs in the European Commission’s Public Consultation on the Green Paper “European Research Area: New Perspectives”. The EPWS reply and position paper are now available online. We thank the numerous correspondents for their inputs on the European Research Area.

Encouraged by the number and content of your responses we invite you again to take the opportunity to feed back your opinion in the ongoing debate on measuring excellence by answering the EPWS questionnaire on excellence available in the public area of the EPWS website and to truly make EPWS your voice.

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

EPWS – the voice of more than 10 000 researchers in Europe

In less than one and a half years, since opening its Secretariat in Brussels, EPWS has evolved into an important point of reference for women scientists in Europe and policy makers aiming at promoting gender equality in science and research. EPWS currently has 117 members, together representing over 10.000 researchers of all disciplines all over Europe.

EPWS 2008 Annual Conference and General Assembly

The EPWS 2008 Annual Conference and second General Assembly will take place in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 5-7 June 2008. The EPWS General Assembly will be held on 6 June 2008.

Please block the date!

New EPWS Project Manager Research Policy

Starting 1 July 2007, Pauleen Colligan joined the EPWS Secretariat in Brussels as Project Manager Research Policy. Pauleen has a European Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Padua, Italy and the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. She also has an International Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from University College Dublin, Ireland, and an International Diploma in Social and Political Sciences from Sciences Po, Paris.

Prior to joining the European Platform of Women Scientists, Pauleen worked in the Research Directorate General in the Unit “Scientific Culture and Gender Issues”. She also worked in the European Parliament for two years as a Political & Parliamentary Assistant. Before that, she was a member of the Communications team at Amnesty International – Irish Section.

EPWS reply to the EC ERA Consultation

EPWS took part in the European Commission’s Public Consultation on the Green Paper “European Research Area: New Perspectives” by replying to the questionnaire and by devising a Position Paper on this subject. Both documents are available in the public section of the EPWS website:

http://www.epws.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=235&Itemid=4636

The European Commission released the Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives" on 4 April 2007. Shortly after, an online public consultation on the issues in the Green Paper was opened until August 2007.

For further details on the Consultation:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/consultation-era_en.html#greenpaper

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

OPEN.

To still enjoy free membership in 2007, hand in your application before

15 September 2007!

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

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.

NB. There will be no membership fees during the year 2007.

EPWS debate on excellence

EPWS organises a debate on excellence during the Wiser Festival - *More Women in Science, Education and Research!*, organised by the ESF/EQUAL project "Priority for Participation" in Maastricht (the Netherlands),

on 4-5 October 2007. The EPWS debate will take place on 5 October 2007, 11.30-12.45h.

For further information on the Festival: <http://www.wiserineurope.eu>

Furthermore, we strongly encourage you to take part in this debate by answering the EPWS questionnaire on excellence available in the public area of the EPWS website: http://www.epws.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=217&Itemid=4545

Any answers received by 15 September 2007 can be used in the debate.

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

Report on the mobility of scientists

In June 2007, Eurostat published a report on the mobility of science and technology workers in the EU.

In EU27, according to this report, foreigners represent an average of 5.7% of human resources in research and technology, half of whom are citizens from other member states.

For the full report:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OF_FPUB/KS-SF-007-075/EN/KS-SF-007-075-EN.PDF

EC Consultation on combating discrimination

On 4 July 2007, the European Commission launched an online consultation on combating discrimination in the Member States and at EU level. The public consultation will help the Commission plan new measures to tackle discrimination on the basis of Article 13 of the EC Treaty in areas beyond the job market.

Although gender is mentioned in article 13 of the EC Treaty, which gives the EU institutions the power to adopt anti-discrimination legislation, the Consultation concerns itself with discrimination on the grounds of age, religion and belief, disability and sexual orientation only. Gender is not included in the Consultation because, with regard to current employment and training legislation in the EU, the Commission has said that discrimination on the basis of gender is treated in different legislation:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/gender_equality/legislation/legalacts_en.html

The consultation is made up of a general online consultation, as well as a consultation targeted at business.

Deadline: 15 October 2007

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=270

The consultation is accessible at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

EC Report on gender pay gap

On 18 July 2007, the European Commission released the report "Tackling the pay gap between women and men". According to this document, women earn 15% less than men in the European Union, while six million of the eight million jobs created in the EU since 2000 have been taken by women and while 59% of university graduates are female.

For further analysis and statistics on the pay gap and the situation of women on the labour market, see the report:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2007/jul/genderpaygap_en.pdf

Consultation on responsible nanotechnologies and nanosciences

On 18 July 2007, the European Commission announced a public consultation on responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research. The consultation will provide input for a Recommendation to the Member States on a possible Code of Conduct for this emerging area of science, which the Commission will put forward later in 2007. Contributions are expected from a broad cross-section of European society, including the scientific community, industry, civil society, policy-makers, media and the general public.

For further information on the consultation:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/pdf/nano-consultation_en.pdf

To take part in this consultation:

<http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/science-and-society/public-debates/nano-recommendation/>

ERC Starting Grants – first stage evaluation process concluded

On 26 July 2007, European Research Council (ERC) concluded the first stage of the

evaluation of the Starting Independent Investigator Grants (Starting Grants). Out of the 9 167 proposals submitted, 559 have been selected for the second stage of the peer review evaluation process and invited to submit their full proposal by 17 September 2007.

The final conclusion of the selection process, which will also involve individual interviews, is foreseen for the end of 2007. It is currently estimated that a little less than half of the 559 candidates will be rewarded a grant.

Of the selected candidates, 87% have four to nine years of experience after completion of their PhD, and their average age is around 36 years. The distribution of the 559 selected applicants over the three domains is 45% in "Physics, Mathematics and Engineering", 37% in "Life Sciences" and 18% in "Social Sciences and Humanities".

At this stage, the gender distribution is 24% female applicants and 76% male. However, this ratio differs largely between the various fields, with a considerably higher number of women selected in the area of "Social Sciences and Humanities" (44%), as opposed to the fields "Life Sciences" (21%) and "Physics, Mathematics and Engineering" (18%).

For further information: <http://erc.europa.eu/>

Upcoming Tender: *She Figures 2009*

On 31 July 2007, the European Commission's Directorate General for Research issued a prior information notice regarding the *She Figures 2009*, which provide the statistics and indicators necessary for monitoring progress towards gender equality in science.

The objective of this tender is to publish the *She Figures* booklet, planned for early 2009. The work will include data gathering from various sources, data processing including definition of indicators, update of the existing database, full production of the publication (text, graphs, tables, footnotes) and production of an accompanying DVD or CD-ROM.

The call for tenders will be published in the second half of 2007.

To see the full details of the notice, please consult:

<http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:179466-2007:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Grants planned for participation in appointment procedure training

The EU funded project *Encouragement to Advance – Training Seminars for Women Scientists* will offer financial support to applicants in certain cases of outstanding qualification and compliance to the projects selection criteria. The planned grants cover the regular participation fee of 250, - Euro as well as travel expenses. Irrespective of reason or sum of the requested grant, applicants are not legally entitled to be awarded.

Requests to the projected grant budget are especially welcome from Eastern European countries.

Female researchers from all disciplines are welcome to apply to the four-day training on appointment procedures. This addresses female Post-Docs who aim to enter a senior position at a University. The application training for professorships specialises on Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, though applications are welcome from researchers of all EU27 countries.

Each seminar covers international appointment procedures; presentation of the trial lecture or ones academic profile, the interview with the search committee, examination of application documents, and the development of career strategies and career objectives. Furthermore each seminar reviews how to get involved in the 7th European Research Framework Programme (FP7) and offers a good opportunity for interdisciplinary and international networking among all participants.

For more information about the project and the registration procedure please visit

www.cews.org or contact the project coordinator anke.lipinsky@cews.org.

Input requested for the "WomenInNano" online survey

The European project "WomenInNano" (<http://www.womeninnano.de/>) is conducting a survey which analyses the individual situation of women working in the field of nanoscience.

Women scientists working in this field are highly encouraged to take part in this survey by contacting Annett Gebert: A.Gebert@ifw-dresden.de.

Upcoming Events

1. *Gender - Genre - Geschlecht: Travelling Concepts?*, Bern (Switzerland), 19-22 September 2007
http://www.izfg.unibe.ch/travelling_concepts/
2. *W.I.S.E.R. More Women in Science, Education and Research!*, Maastricht (The Netherlands), 4-5 October 2007
<http://www.wiserineurope.eu/>
3. *Equal Opportunities and Communication Rights: Representation, Participation & the European Democratic Deficit*, Brussels (Belgium), 11-12 October 2007
<http://www.ecrea.eu/events/seminars>
4. *1st International Conference of Female Academics*, Graz (Austria), 17-18 October 2007
<http://www.fit-mentoring.tugraz.at/wissenschaftlerin/index.php>
5. *Women in Engineering and Technology Research*, Paris (France), 26-27 October 2007
<http://www.prometea.info/conference2007>

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)¹
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.

¹ **NB: There are no membership fees for 2007**