



European Platform of Women Scientists NEWSLETTER, Issue 15, October 2007

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

EPWS Members are online! Go to the EPWS website and check-out the membership section for member networks and supporting individuals. Member networks and organisations are presented with a short description of their objectives and activities as well as their logo and web site link. Individual members handed in short biographical information as well as their main current activity and their affiliation.

Consult the list for information on members of your discipline, country, and scope of interest. If you want to join a network or tap their experience get in touch with them. If you want to start a network, here are your potential partners. If you want to join EPWS, contact the EPWS Secretariat in Brussels.

Further information on projects and activities of EPWS members can be found under the headline "News from EPWS Members" below.

The Platform warmly congratulates EPWS Treasurer Mineke Bosch, who has been appointed Professor at the University of Maastricht, working at the Centre for Gender and Diversity. We wish her all the best for the future challenges ahead. Members of the EPWS Board of Administration attended the inaugural lecture and participated in the official procession into the hall, increasing considerably the number of female professors present...

The Platform's visibility gets bigger with every month of activity. This is reflected by numerous invitations to contribute to conferences, projects, reports and articles by members as well as to collaborate with political institutions such as the European Commission and the European Parliament.

We would like to thank our members for their lively responses to the news alerts sent out in October 2007 asking for their opinions, contributions and support in this context. We highly appreciate your engagement.

Your input is crucial to the Platform's output!

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 2007, 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.

NB. There are no membership fees during the year 2007.

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

EPWS Treasurer, Dr. Mineke Bosch, appointed Professor at the University of Maastricht



Mineke Bosch, EPWS Treasurer, has been appointed Professor at the University of Maastricht (The Netherlands).

On 4th October 2007, marking the opening of the WISER Festival, Mineke Bosch gave her inaugural lecture on “The burden of tradition. Gender and the culture of memory in academia”.

Professor Mineke Bosch reflected on the role of cultural memory and identity in science to explain the under-representation of women in science.

http://www.wiserineurope.eu/?piid=222&pg_pdiid=262

EPWS Debate on Measuring Excellence

EPWS organised a debate on “Measuring Excellence” on the occasion of the WISER Festival which took place in Maastricht (The Netherlands) on 4-5 October 2007.

The debate sought to question traditional views of “excellence” in academia and research and whether the current definition of “excellence” is truly gender neutral. The two panellists, EPWS Board of Administration members, Prof. Ana Proykova and Dr. Flavia Zucco presented the arguments both for currently held notions of excellence and for a new, more inclusive conception of “excellence”. PhD student Marieke Van den Brink offered up her findings with regard to recruitment practices in academia in the Netherlands. She elaborated on the role of gate keeping and scouting in the process thus interfering with the application of truly objective criteria of “excellence”.

After an animated discussion, the audience was asked to vote on a number of statements relating to current and proposed definitions of excellence. The results of the vote showed that while traditional methods of measuring “excellence” (such as number of publications in

peer-reviewed journals) were still considered to refer to an important indicator of excellence, the audience believed the understanding of the term needed to be broadened. Criteria which do not currently fall within the definition of “excellence” and which are often deemed more female in character (such as communication skills), were regarded as equally relevant to “excellence”. It was also stressed that transparency in the criteria which fall under “excellence” in the recruitment process is of outmost importance.

The WISER Festival – Women in Science Research and Education – was a two-day event of lively debates and programmes on the meaning and the implications of making science genuinely inclusive. Organised by the Centre for Gender and Diversity, Maastricht University, and opened by Ronald Plasterk, the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, the festival was a truly interactive and energetic occasion.

For more information on the debate and the findings from our Excellence questionnaire, check-out the EPWS website where all the results will be uploaded in the course of November.

For more information on Wiser:
<http://www.wiserineurope.eu/>



News from EPWS Members

1. The EMBL International PhD Programme invites applications for the 2008 spring selection. The EMBL International PhD Programme, originally established in 1983, represents the flagship of EMBL's commitment to first class training and education, providing EMBL PhD students with a starting platform for a successful career in science.

Application deadline: 17 December 2007.

<http://www.embl.org/>

2. The Champalimaud Foundation (Portugal) calls for nominations for the 2008 Vision Award. The award is given alternately between contributions to overall vision research and contributions to the alleviation of visual problems, primarily in developing countries. In 2008 the Award will recognise ground-breaking discoveries in the lab that enhance our knowledge or understanding of vision.

Deadline for submission of complete award entries: 31 December 2007

<http://www.fchampalimaud.org/vision-award/>

3. The Centre for the Study of Prehistoric and Archaeological Heritage (Spain) organises the conference "Interpreting household practices. Reflections on the social and cultural roles of maintenance activities" in Barcelona on 22-24 November 2007.

http://seneca.uab.es/arqueologia/pdf/Diptic_Workshop07_angles.pdf

4. The Marie Curie Fellows Association organizes its General Assembly in Catania (Italy) on 24 November 2007.

<http://mcfa.eu/site/public/eventReader.php?idEvent=50241>

5. In October 2007, the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) published "Looking for best practices: what do universities do to enhance the position of women and are these measures effective?". The study contains an inventory and evaluation of policy measures to improve the position of women that were taken by 14 Dutch universities between 2000 and 2007.

<http://www.lnvh.nl/?page=3&sub=18>

6. The Federal Conference of Gender Equality Officers in Higher Education in Germany (BUKOF) organised the conference "Gender equality, anti-discrimination and diversity" in Bad Boll on 17-19 September 2007. The goal of this event was to offer BUKOF the opportunity to develop its own understanding of the gender equality policy measures into antidiscrimination and diversity management.

<http://www.bukof.de/>

The European Institute of Technology renamed

On 26th September 2007, the European Parliament gave support to the Commission's proposal for establishing a European Institute of Technology (EIT).

The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) decided to rename the EIT the European Institute of *Innovation* and Technology, so as to better reflect its primary focus. The MEPs also voted for the institute to be established, as initially proposed by the German Presidency, only after a pilot phase in which two or three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) had run projects to test the feasibility of such an institute.

The MEPs recommended that every KIC should consist of at least three partner organisations, located in at least two different participating countries and including at least one higher-education institution and one private company.

Regarding the budget issue, the MEPs agreed with the Commission that €308.7 million of the expected total funding of some €2.4 billion between 2008-2013 should come from the Community budget.

For further information on the Institute:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html

Preliminary results of the ERA Consultation

Preliminary results are available on the European Commission's consultation on the Green Paper "European Research Area: New Perspectives", which lasted from 1st May 2007 until 31st August 2007.

Universities and research institutions, companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals from across Europe and beyond have sent in more than 800 contributions to the public consultation on the future of the European Research Area (ERA).

While in-depth analysis of the responses is ongoing, the main trend is widespread support for the concept of a European Research Area (ERA) and its priorities. The responses also provide ideas on how to reinforce and extend the ERA.

The consultation identified a number of key issues for the future of the ERA, including public investment, globalisation of research, private sector investment, the emergence of new scientific powers and the specialisation of research activities at EU, rather than Member State, level. The six priority areas suggested by the Commission – researchers, infrastructures, excellent research institutions, knowledge-sharing, international co-operation, co-ordinated programming and evaluation, and opening ERA to the world – were confirmed, with knowledge-sharing emerging as the most pressing if the ERA vision is to be achieved.

For more information on the European Research Area, including the full preliminary consultation results:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/progress-on-debate/stakeholder-consultation_en.html

EPWS took part in this consultation by replying to the questionnaire and by devising a Position Paper on this subject. EPWS highlighted that consideration to gender was essential. Gender diversity in research and research leadership would render research more creative, and would therefore ultimately result in a higher likelihood and innovation.

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

Mobility of researchers in the EU

Only Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Portugal and Romania have implemented the Researchers' Visa Directive before the 12th October 2007 deadline. The other 19 member states could be taken to the European Court of Justice for failing to grant third-country

nationals entry to their territory to carry out scientific research.

The directive sets out a specific procedure for allowing third-country nationals into the EU for the purposes of carrying out scientific research - the so-called researchers' visa. Four other member states (France, Latvia, Lithuania and the Slovak Republic) have indicated only partial implementation of the directive.

EU-based firms lag behind on research spending

The 2007 *EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard*, released on 5th October 2007, presents information on 2000 top companies from around the world – of which 1000 in the EU – reporting major investments in R&D. Together, these 2000 companies represent more than 85% of corporate R&D spending in the world.

According to this document, only three EU companies have made it to the global top ten for investors in research and development: car giant DaimlerChrysler (5th), pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (7th) and engineering firm Siemens (8th). US companies dominate the list with pharmaceutical company Pfizer being the champion on R&D spending in the world.

The increase in corporate investment in research among top firms was only 7.4% for 2006-2007 in the EU, as opposed to 11.1% globally, according to the European Commission reporting.

The *EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard* is published annually by the European Commission as part of its Industrial Research Investment Monitoring activity. The figures are derived from company accounts for the previous financial year and indicate the investment made by a company from its own funds. The Scoreboard does not reflect where the expenditure was made, just the origin of the company making the investment.

For the full report:

http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/docs/2007/sb_2007.pdf

Creation of the L'Oréal Corporate Foundation

On 9th October 2007, Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones, Chairman of L'Oréal, announced the creation of the L'Oréal Corporate Foundation.

The L'Oréal Corporate Foundation intends to focus on three key lines of action: encouraging education, promoting scientific research, and helping vulnerable people.

Encouraging education, for example, means developing scientific learning programmes, committing to prevention programmes, promoting greater diversity and richer cultural exchange, and raising awareness about the environment.

Promoting scientific research is primarily about supporting excellence and fostering new talent. The L'Oréal Foundation's flagship effort in this respect will be to expand the "For Women in Science" programme, created 10 years ago in partnership with UNESCO, to promote women in scientific research.

Helping the vulnerable involves helping them regain confidence and self-esteem. The L'Oréal Foundation is partnering the "Look Good... Feel Better" programme that helps women cancer sufferers cope with the effects of their illness.

For more information on the Foundation and its projects:

<http://www.loreal.co.uk/en/gb/index.aspx?index.aspx?direct1=00006&direct2=00006/00002>

2007 Excellencia Prize awarded in Paris

The 2007 Excellencia Prize has just been awarded to women engineers from the high-tech sector in France who achieved professional success while reconciling family and work.

Selected by a 20-member jury representing industry, research, women's organisations and media, the five laureates received their final vote from the general public. They are:

- ✓ Christine Morin from the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA) – for fundamental research
- ✓ Christine Azevedo-Coste from the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA) – for applied research
- ✓ Jacqueline Lambert from Philae Technologies, in the technology supplier category
- ✓ Alexandra Pauty-Assié, from the Health Insurance branch of French Social Security (CNAM-TS), in the technology user category
- ✓ Sandra Carrie, a young engineer at Telecom INT, in the promising engineer category with the jury recognising her talent in the field of space telecommunications.

The event was attended by Valerie Letard, the French Secretary of State for Solidarity, and Viviane Reding, the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media.

For more information on the Excellencia Prize:
<http://www.excellencia.org>

Call for Papers: Women's Worlds Congress 2008

The 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, "Women's Worlds / Mundos de Mujeres 2008" will be held in Madrid (Spain) on 3-9 July 2008. The motto of the Congress is "Equality: no Utopia" and its general theme is "New Frontiers: Dares, Challenges and Changes". Violence and migrations will be part of the central themes.

Proposals for papers must be submitted through the Congress online submission system which can be found at:
<http://www.mmww08.org/>

Deadline: 28 February 2008

Deadline for grants: 3 December 2007

For further information:

http://www.mmww08.org/archivos/File/CALLFORPAPERSENGLISH_1.pdf

Encouragement to Advance – grants available for training

The EU funded project *Encouragement to Advance – Training Seminars for Women Scientists* will offer financial support to certain applicants. The grants cover the regular participation fee of €250 as well as travel expenses. 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. 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 EU-27 countries.

Each seminar covers information and practical advice on international appointment procedures, presentation of the trial lecture or one's 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 training seminar and the registration procedure please visit www.cews.org or contact the Project Coordinator anke.lipinsky@cews.org.

AAUW Fellowship

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) awards International Fellowships for full-time graduate or postgraduate study or research to women who are not US citizens or permanent residents. Supplemental grants support community-based projects in the fellow's home country.

Deadline: 1 December 2007

For further information and submission of applications:

http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/international.cfm

UNESCO Courier

The 2007 second issue of the UNESCO's *Courier* is dedicated to "Women in Science: The Missing Links".

This publication spots the situation of women scientists in different parts of the world, while looking "behind the statistics":

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001515/151580e.pdf>

Upcoming Events

1. *Innovation for a Digital Future: How Female Innovators can triumph in the Digital Future*, London (UK), 12 November 2007

http://www.equalitec.org.uk/equalitec_main/events.cfm

2. *What is the potential of new financing schemes for fostering science and technological innovation?... Balancing private and public, national and global incentives*, Lisbon (Portugal) 12-13 November 2007

http://www.mctes.pt/?id_categoria=80

3. *Open Forum on future of Networks of Excellence*, Brussels (Belgium), 20 November 2007

<http://www.supportresearchnoes.eu/>

4. *GENDER – POWER – CHANGES*, University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg), 26-28 November 2007

http://www.uni.lu/l_universite/deleguee_aux_questions_feminines_et_du_genre/gender_research/gender_workshops_at_uni_lu

5. *Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) in Brussels* (Belgium), 28 November 2007

<http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/index.html>

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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**