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## Editorial

Dear Readers,

2009 will be a year of multiple serious challenges. Also for women scientists in Europe. The world economy and its financial system are in substantial crisis and within this context, we potentially might have to face at least partially shrinking investments in research and education. Private sector funding for research and for the activities of associations might become more and more scarce.

This situation affects EPWS and its activities as much as its member organisations and is adding to the challenges of transition the European Platform of Women Scientists is facing in 2009 after entering financial and administrative independence on 1 November 2008. Now EPWS has to secure its own funding. The EPWS Executive Committee therefore issued an appeal for financial support to all institutions and individuals in and beyond Europe (p.3), which I kindly invite you to read, spread to any suitable donors and act upon. Set a pioneering example and join first member pioneer *Donne e Scienza* (p.6-7)!

If in addition every scientist organised within one of the member organisations of EPWS, and you are more than 12,000 out there!, financially supported the Platform with 10 € per year, a decisive and substantial contribution could be made to the sustainability of the Platform. To enable easy on-line donations, EPWS has installed an online donation button on the EPWS homepage: <http://www.epws.org/index.php>

2009 is also the designated *European Year of Innovation and Creativity* and EU officials have lately reasserted the importance of investing in innovation to prompt a way out of the economic decline thus reaffirming the European Union's belief in a more innovative and creative environment to boost economic development and foster a better society.

There is a gender dimension to the present financial crisis and there is a gender dimension to innovation. In order to achieve economically and socially sustainable results, taking a gender perspective on the financial and economic situation as well as on innovation and creativity will be indispensable. Women scientists and women innovators and inventors can play an important part in

this context. This holds true with regard to the analysis of the present situation as much as with regard to valuable contributions and remedies.

Against this background, EPWS will continue to network experts and gather information in both fields. Under the auspices of EPWS a networking structure to improve the analytical capacity and monitor current developments from a gender perspective will be established (p. 5). The EPWS Innovation Questionnaire which aims to pin down what 'innovation' and the current discussion on its importance for researchers means for you, the working scientist, can still be filled under "Policy Debate" on the EPWS website.

Help us to continue making a difference for women scientists and to highlight their contributions to the present debates and their impressive networking activities. Share with us your own activities in the field!

Maren Jochimsen, *EPWS Secretary General*

### BE HEARD AT EUROPEAN LEVEL, BECOME A MEMBER OF EPWS!

EPWS offers a vibrant forum for sharing experiences and knowledge, and envisioning new tools and directions for change towards gender equality in science and research policy.

More information and the application forms are available in the Membership section of the EPWS website:

[www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)

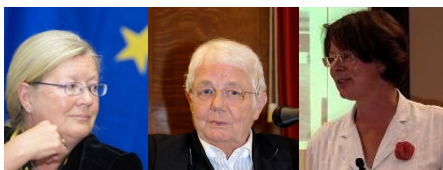
For further information, please contact the

EPWS Secretariat: e-mail

[membership@epws.org](mailto:membership@epws.org)

tel.: +32 2 234 37 50

## EPWS Executive Committee Appeal for Donations



Dear Colleagues,

The European Platform of Women Scientists has been established with seed funding from the European Commission as an FP6 Specific Support Action ending 31 October 2008. Since 1 November 2008, the Platform has to secure its own financial sustainability.

To successfully ensure the continuation of EPWS and the further performance of its services, the Platform needs the help and financial support of all stakeholders involved: public and private research institutions, foundations, companies and individuals.

As a start-up, the Platform has to organize the funding necessary to finance the running costs of the Association, such as the costs for office rent and office administration including the necessary personnel. The overheads granted within the new EU grant and other possible grants, however, only finance a fraction of the Platform's running costs. Also, EU funding regulations stipulate that the final payment will only be transferred after the end of the respective grant(s). Accordingly, the Platform needs to pre-finance its grant activities to be able to successfully carry out its grant activities – a task all the more a challenge since EPWS has no big institution, a university or a research organisation, behind it to help with pre-financing engagements.

Right now, EPWS needs to fundraise an amount of approximately 200.000 € to successfully carry on into 2010 and beyond. Your personal commitment is urgently needed, as well as sponsors, supporting organisations and further member organisations!

On our way to transform Europe into a knowledge-based society the participation of women scientists has never been more important than at this moment in time. EPWS is a decisive step towards achieving this goal!

**Help us to keep the Platform alive!  
Invest in the future of Europe.  
Financially contribute to EPWS.**

Adelheid Ehmke, Brigitte Mühlenbruch, Mineke Bosch

For easy on-line donations, please go the donation button on the EPWS homepage: <http://www.epws.org/index.php>

## New features on EPWS website

To enhance the dialogue and collaboration between women scientists and strengthen their networks at the European and global level, EPWS is proud to announce the launch of its new information tools and the use of Twine for research policy debate and publications.

### 1. News section

In this space the Platform will regularly publish information about its activities and all matters concerning women scientists and the European Research Policy debate.

The News page will enable fre-

quent updates, in-depth analysis of topics, and allow our readers to comment on the materials and contribute their own perspectives.

### 2. Research policy debate and publications - Twine

EPWS now provides access to its research policy documentation and to its publications through the use of Twine, a social web service for information *storage*, *sharing*, and *discovery*.

These dynamic databases facilitate and improve:

- The search of all position papers, replies to public consulta-

tions and official papers given or presented by the European Platform of Women Scientists to the legislative bodies of the EU.

- Access to official publications at EU level on women and science and links to EU institutions involved in the decision-making process.

- Access to all Newsletters, Press releases, and Articles by and about the European Platform of Women Scientists.

Visit our homepage at [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org). For feedback, contact [communications@epws.org](mailto:communications@epws.org).

## The business perspective: EPWS Round-Table Women in scientific careers within corporate R&D departments



Within the framework of its outreach activities to women in industrial research, EPWS organised a Round-Table on Women in scientific careers within corporate R&D department in Brussels on 13 January 2009.

This event brought together representatives from major companies to discuss the situation of women scientists in industrial research in Europe. The objective of the meeting was to understand how companies can attract highly qualified women scientists and identify appropriate selection criteria and internal policies to encourage women to continue a scientific

career path within a company.

The discussion focused more particularly on the attractiveness of scientific careers in companies for women, the concept of 'career' and potential differences between women and men, the appropriateness of recruitment criteria and the necessity to clarify them and on the 'age criteria' in recruitment process.

After a fruitful exchange of views and good practices, the participants agreed to continue to debate the issue in the future. The framework of the follow up is still under discussion, but EPWS hopes that this initiative will generate innovative solutions to the under-representation of women in industrial research.

## English as the communication language in Science EPWS participation in Expolangues

On 14 January 2009, EPWS participated in the Expolangues fair in Paris. Expolangues is a unique event aiming at the promotion of learning languages, defending multilingualism and developing international communication.

The European Commission was this year guest of honour. EPWS had the opportunity to give its view on the use of English as the communication language in Science at a roundtable entitled "Languages and Competitiveness".

Commissioner for multilingualism Leonard

Orban was present and defended the importance of multilingualism for a prosperous Europe. If Europe aims at one single currency, there will not be one unique language said Mr. Orban. The discussion lead by Philippe Dessain, journalist at TV5, was a great exchange between the Commission, the business sector and the social actors such the trade unions and EPWS.

For more information about this event, please visit its website: <http://www.expolangues.fr/indexELgb.htm>

## EPWS Annual Conference

The EPWS Annual Conference 2009 will be organized in collaboration with Belgian Women in Science (BeWiSe) and take place in Brussels on 25-26 June 2009. On the second day of the conference, EPWS is running for the first time at set of seminars aiming at promoting the management and funding of networks and associations of women scientists. Based on EPWS members' and the Platform's own experiences, these seminars will be a unique opportunity to get technical advice, practical tips and share ideas and good and bad practices with your colleagues. The conference programme as well as practical booking information will be available shortly on the EPWS web site: [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)

### **Block the date!**

The **EPWS General Assembly 2009** and Standing Committee meeting will take place in **Brussels on 25 June 2009**  
We look forward to seeing all members there!

## A gender perspective on the financial crisis EPWS brainstorming meeting

*What role do and can women scientists and policy makers play in analysing the current situation and what sort of remedies do they suggest?*

In the light of the upcoming meetings of the European Council and the G20 on recovery measures and the reform of the financial architecture, a selected group of prominent women economists and social scientists in Europe met in Brussels on 19 February 2009 under the auspices of the European Platform of Women Scientists to discuss the necessity of a gender perspective when

analysing and targeting the current financial and economic crisis. The group was composed of international experts from academia, politics, business and civil society institutions in the areas of gender and financial issues, economic analysis, and crisis management.

*What is the gender dimension of the present financial crisis when it comes to acting responsibilities as well as to being affected?* Since informed responses to these issues need further research and analytical development, the group decided to establish a networking

structure to improve the analytical capacity and monitor current developments from a gender perspective.

It was decided more particularly to undertake the drafting of a policy paper on a gender analysis of stimulus packages in the EU and to concentrate research on four main themes: gender impact of the crisis, gender dimension of recovery measures, priorities of a new financial architecture and the contribution of gender knowledge to comprehensively understand and tackle the crisis.

## The DIVERSITY Project

### Improving the gender diversity management in materials research institutions



EPWS has the pleasure to announce the launch of the DIVERSITY project, a support action within FP7, that started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and will last for 36 months. The project

is coordinated by the Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research Dresden (IFW Dresden). It brings together 14 partners from 11 European countries, including EPWS.

DIVERSITY represents a pilot initiative of networking policy-makers in science & research, human resources experts, sociologists, women scientists' networks and experienced (men and women) scientists to boost gender equality in scientific research.

The aim is to tackle the problem of under-representation of women in decision-making by fostering the change in institutional culture and changing the attitudes with regard to gender diversity in materials research organisations. Thereby, a

more stimulating research environment in the spirit of the *European Charter for Researchers* and the *Code of Conduct for their Recruitment* will be achieved.

The central goal of the project is to identify the effective methods, policies and mechanisms in order to support women scientists in relation to their access to decision-making positions in the sphere of materials research, which traditionally is a male-dominated scientific field. Commitment to the promotion of women to the highest level of research is anchored at the topmost political and institutional level in DIVERSITY project.

EPWS will keep you updated on the progress of the project development.

For more information about DIVERSITY, please do not hesitate to contact us or the project coordinators: Rolf Pfrengle ([R.Pfrengle@ifw-dresden.de](mailto:R.Pfrengle@ifw-dresden.de)) or Prof. Mariana Calin ([M.Calin@ifw-dresden.de](mailto:M.Calin@ifw-dresden.de)).



## Scientific Workplace Cultures in Europe

### Overview of the UPGEM Project

**UPGEM** Understanding Puzzles in the Gendered European Map The international research project *Understanding Puzzles in the Gendered European Map* (UPGEM) has investigated gender differences in career paths at different physics institutes across Europe. The project was financed by the European Commission's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and counted 15 researchers from Finland, Estonia, Italy, Poland and Denmark.

The research shows that competent physicists follow different career paths, with many female physicists in the North leaving a prosperous career. Problems of retaining competent researchers in academia can be related to the predominant scientific workplace culture (physics as culture), which tends to either support, or aggravate, the situation. UPGEM has identified three ideal types of workplace cultures, and they can be a way to understand the workings of tacit selection mechanisms.

Hercules types are individualistic fighters who prioritize research over family. Caretakers cherish a healthy work-life balance and pay heed to the social ties within their group of fellow scientists. Worker Bees thrive with a clear formal hierarchical organisation of work and tend to perceive scientific work as wage labour.

On the basis of 235 qualitative interviews with physicists in academia (stayers) and physicists outside academia (leavers), UPGEM also points to national cultural historical processes (physics *in* culture) influencing who stays in academia and who leaves. Some researchers are pulled out by family responsibilities or better job offers, while others are pushed out due to national stereotypes and gender categories, low pay or changes in the political climate.

The glass ceiling metaphor is well-known but in order to break it, it is necessary to call forth the cultural self-evidences embedded in the national culture and the workplace culture.

The project results unveil complex and intricate cultural historical patterns behind the different career paths and are presented at [www.upgem.dk](http://www.upgem.dk) in the three project publications: *Draw the Line! Universities as workplaces for male and female researchers in Europe*, *Draw the Line! International conference* and *Break the Pattern! A critical enquiry into three scientific workplace cultures: Hercules, Caretakers and Worker Bees*.

UPGEM joined EPWS in 2008.

## Member of the Month: Donne e Scienza



The association Donne e Scienza, founded in December 2003 by a group of scientists and scholars from several disciplines, promotes the activities on women in science and has developed its own analysis of contemporary science. Donne e Scienza contributes to generate debate and awareness on contemporary science from a gender perspective.

### Involvement in EPWS:

Donne e Scienza has been member of EPWS since 2007. The association is very active in the work of EPWS, notably via the work of Dr. Flavia Zucco, Founding Member of EPWS and member of the EPWS Board of Administration.

### Donne e Scienza Leaders:

*President: Flavia Zucco - biology (CNR)*  
*Vice-President: Cristina Mangia - physics (CNR)*  
*Secretary: Maria Laura Scarino - biology*

*Franca Albertini - physics (CNR)*  
*Bice Fubini - Chemistry (Università di Torino)*  
*Mariangela Ravaioli - geology (CNR)*  
*Flaminia Saccà - political studies (Università di Cassino)*  
*Fiorenza Scotti - Mathematics (INSIEL)*  
*Annamaria Tagliavini - director of the Biblioteca delle Donne*

For more information about the association, please go to: <http://www.donnescienza.it/>

## National networks to support EPWS

**Dr. Flavia Zucco, President of Donne e Scienza, explains why her organisation decided to financially support EPWS**

In the last EPWS newsletter we featured the recent financial contribution of three major national research institutions to support EPWS activities. They stressed the importance of the Platform to foster the promotion of women scientists at their national level.

This opinion is also shared by national networks of women scientists. One of the prominent members of EPWS in Italy, Donne e Scienza, therefore decided to make a substantial donation to the Platform to reinforced its sustainability.

Dr. Flavia Zucco, founding member and President of Donne e Scienza has accepted to share with us the reasons for doing so below:

**EPWS: In how far do you think that EPWS contribute to the promotion of women scientists in your country?**

**Flavia Zucco:** Because it helped us to understand the relevance of becoming an official organisation, in order to have more social impact and visibility than the former group of passionate women. Moreover, the fact that the Commission itself was investing in networking women in science gave us the perception of a strong support by high level institutions, which helped us in the confrontation with our national bodies.

Finally a wider European vision of the problems and issues, shared at the level of the Board of Administration of EPWS (of which one of us is a member), improved our competence and self confidence in our activities.

**EPWS: In which sense are EPWS activities complementary to the actions Donne e Scienza is conducting at the national level?**

**Flavia Zucco:** In our country, there are specific aspects that should be taken in to account: the experience performed in other countries or at other levels can help us in finding the way on.

Moreover, since we can not cover all the possible issues in which gender is involved in science, we may use the Platform's elaborations and statements for local purposes or for agreements to them.

**EPWS: Why did your organisation consider that it was important to financially support**

**EPWS?**

**Flavia Zucco:** Because to know that we are in a network with 90 other networks, gives us a strong background to be used for sharing experiences, for learning new strategies, for implementing actions with more power. The social and political impact is also multiplied being a part of such a network.

These are the reasons why EPWS has to go on.

### About Flavia Zucco



Flavia Zucco is Head of Research at the Institute of Neurobiology and Molecular Medicine (CNR) in Rome, where she has been a permanent staff since 1971.

Graduated in Biology at the University of Naples in 1969, her research interests cover in vitro toxicology, in vitro cellular differentiation, and more recently, bioethics. Since 1986 she has been appointed as EC expert in working groups on in vitro toxicology. From 1990 to 2000, she has been a member of the ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee. Today, she is also a member of the Advisory Scientific Committee of the Network of Excellence BioSim ([www.biosim-network.net](http://www.biosim-network.net)). She also coordinated several European projects: Anim.AI.See, under FP5 from 2002 till 2004 and currently a STREP project under the VIFQ of the EC ([www.liintop.cnr.it](http://www.liintop.cnr.it)). Additionally, she is Honorary Member of the European Society of in Vitro Toxicology (ESTIV) and member of the Editorial Boards of journals in this field.

She is active in the field of Women and Science since 1988, when she was appointed by the CNR in the Commission for the promotion of women scientists. She is President of the Italian association Donne e Scienza and member of the EPWS Board of Administration.

Dr. Zucco published papers and organised conferences in this field ([www.wonbit.net](http://www.wonbit.net)). She recently co-edited with Francesca Molfino a book on the subject called: "Women in Biotechnology: Creating interface" (more information under: <http://www.springer.com/life+sci/book/978-1-4020-8610-6>).

## Other news from EPWS members

### 1. Establishment of the Association of Hungarian Women in Science



At the End of 2008, the Association of Hungarian Women in Science was established with the mission of the improvement of the situation of women researchers and contribution to gender equality in science.

Nők a Tudományban Egyesület

The main tasks of the Association are:

- scientific evaluation of the background and conditions of gender equality in the area of research and development
- influencing public opinion and attitude
- increasing the role of women in research and in high-level science management

Dr. Dora Gróó has been elected President of this new association and we wish her and her colleagues all the best for their new endeavors. Dr Dora Gróó is well known to the Platform not only by her committed work for women scientists but also as the Director of the EPWS member Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation TETALAP.

See: [http://tetalap.hu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=119](http://tetalap.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=119)

### 2. Launch of the Lisbon Forum: A policy dialogue instrument in the field of knowledge and innovation economy



ARCHES, a non-profit organisation aiming at the creation of knowledge by establishing collaborations with universities and research centres and EPWS supporting organisation, is one of the Founding Members of the European Platform 'Knowledge4Innovation'. To learn more about ARCHES, we invite you to consult their website: <http://www.arches-centroricerca.org/>.

Knowledge4Innovation (K4I) is a not-for-profit platform which enables multiple stakeholders of the knowledge and innovation economy to meet and exchange experiences; all sharing the common objective of improving Europe's innovation performance.

In December 2008, K4I launched the Lisbon Forum. This Forum is K4I's policy dialogue instrument, and brings together policy makers and innovation actors from the private and academic sectors. Over the next few months K4I-Lisbon Form plans to organize three dinner debates on: (1) Innovation and Energy Efficiency; (2) the role of Regions, Cities, and City Regions in support of innovation, and (3) IPR and the Governance of the European Patent System. Members of K4I are from all corners of Europe. To learn more about K4I and how to become a member, please check: <http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/k4i/default.aspx>.

### 3. Call for papers 2<sup>nd</sup> International PROMETEA Conference: "The scientific and technological careers of women and men: Private temporalities, professional temporalities; public and corporate policies"

PROMOTEA organises a conference at the Maison de l'UNESCO, Paris, France, on 26-27 November 2009. It will attempt to meet this demand:

- To create opportunities of exchange between researchers in HSS and corporate managers
- To take stock of the situation of women in these jobs and evaluate the impact of public policies and of new corporate practices on their careers: more flexibility, development of teleworking, blurring of the border line between private life and work, gender-neutral parental leaves, day care services
- To encourage the emergence of new social models better adapted to the reality of contemporary social life. Also to consider new paths for men in order to make all jobs and functions equally accessible to women and men.

The researchers who intend to present an oral communication or a poster are invited to submit them online **before 15 April 2009**. Conferences languages are French and English. The conference is organised in 5 sessions. For more info, please check: [www.prometea.info/conference2009](http://www.prometea.info/conference2009).

**Anything new in your organisation? Any upcoming event or recently released publication?  
Want to have more visibility given to your activities?**

Let us know and we will publish your news here.

Contact: [membership@epws.org](mailto:membership@epws.org)

## A more attractive ERA but stagnating EU R&D intensity 2008 Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures report

The 2008 Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures report published on 22 January 2009 for the first time provides an overview of progress from 2000 to 2006 in both EU R&D investment and in implementing the European Research Area (ERA).

The report shows that Europe's pool of researchers is growing and the EU is becoming more attractive for foreign researchers and for private R&D investments from the US. In terms of EU 27's R&D intensity (R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP), the situation is less encouraging.

The R&D intensity reaches only 1,84% compromising thereby the EU's ambition of becoming the most competitive knowledge-based economy. Despite many member states' investment in research and research efficiency, the EU is far from reaching the Lisbon target of 3% of GDP in R&D.

According to the report, continuously low business investment in R&D explains the R&D intensity gap between the EU and its competitors. This is mostly due to the smaller size of the research-intensive high-technology industry in Europe.

Together with the new 2008 Innovation Scoreboard, which provides detailed results of EU innovation performance, this report demonstrates that the EU must change its industrial structure, foster innovation and ensure more and better use of R&D.

For the full report on Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures 2008: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/>

For the full report on Innovation Scoreboard 2008: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/metrics>

## EU officials reassert the importance of investing in innovation to boost economic recovery

Investment in research and innovation within the EU seems to be secured in this period of economic crisis. EU officials have indeed reasserted the importance of investing in innovation to prompt a way out the economic decline.

Commenting on the Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures 2008, EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, and Vice President Günter Verheugen, responsible for enterprise and industry policy, stated that *"in a time of crisis, it is not the moment to take a break in research investment and in innovation. They are vital if Europe wants to emerge stronger from the economic crisis and if it wants to address the challenges of climate change and globalisation"*. In their view, *"there is still work*

*to be done, especially on the relative underinvestment by business"*.

This is also the opinion of Hans-Gert Pöttering. The President of the European Parliament, speaking at the end of January at a conference on the role of technological development in Europe's economic recovery, stressed the importance of investing in innovation to secure new investments from the industry. He is therefore confident that the EU will invest a larger proportion of its annual budget for research technology and research programmes for the next Financial Perspective 2013-2021.

Source: European Commission, Press release, IP/09/92, 22 January 2009

## New report on "Women in politics - time for action"

A new report on "Women in European politics-time for action" has been published by the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission. The report covers the gender balance in politics at all levels and examines the current situation of women as elected representatives, the extent to which they are selected as candidates for election, how this links to electoral success and some of the reasons behind the limited progress to date.

The report also includes a brief analysis of the situation in some other areas, including business and public administration. The report is available on line at: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/publications/booklets/equality/pdf/ke8109543\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/booklets/equality/pdf/ke8109543_en.pdf).

## Research Ministers adopt a definition for the '2020 Vision for the European Research Area'

In December 2008, under the French presidency, the EU research ministers revealed their vision of a borderless European Research Area (ERA) by 2020 to boost EU competitiveness.

The ministers reaffirmed that the "ERA constitutes a core element of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs". They stressed the "necessity for a fully operational ERA" that contributes to the "knowledge triangle of research, innovation and education" to drive the international competitiveness and sustainable development of Europe.

Against this background, they endorsed the '2020 Vision for the ERA', which was developed in partnership by the Member States and the Commission in the context of the first phase of the 'Ljubljana process'.

### What is the 'European Research Area Vision 2020'?

By 2020, all actors fully benefit from the "Fifth Freedom" across the ERA: free circulation of re-

searchers, knowledge and technology. The ERA provides attractive conditions and effective and efficient governance for doing research and investing in R&D intensive sectors in Europe. It creates strong added value by fostering a healthy Europe-wide scientific competition whilst ensuring the appropriate level of cooperation and coordination. It is responsive to the needs and ambitions of citizens and effectively contributes to the sustainable development and competitiveness of Europe.

### What is the 'Ljubljana Process'?

The EU-27 research ministers and the Commission agreed, on 15 April 2008 under Slovenian Presidency, on a new partnership called 'Ljubljana Process', which should lead to better exploitation of Europe's research potential and the creation of a genuine ERA.

Aware that the ERA can be created only in partnership between the Member States and

the European Commission, the Ministers agreed that the EU Member States and the European Commission would be jointly responsible for establishing a genuine single ERA. They also stressed that the common vision should be upgraded as soon as possible with a view to framing policy and action plans to put it into practice, vision which became the 'European Research Area Vision 2020'.

It was also agreed that the ERA could be achieved only through improved political management of the European Research Area, encompassing policies on research, education and innovation and involving all other actors – administrations, academic institutions, business and civil society. In this respect, the Member States will endeavour to intensively exchange examples of good practice, create new models and apply them in national research policies, based on detailed analysis of the situation and on a well-developed information system.

### 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](mailto:emmanuelle.causse@epws.org)

## Women & Science stocktaking conference:

### “Changing research landscapes to make the most of human potential”

On 14-15 May 2009, the European Commission is organising in collaboration with the Czech Presidency a conference in Prague to analyse 10 years of EU activities within "Women and Science" and beyond.

The conference will focus on how gender management enters into the modernisation process that is currently being carried out at universities and research institutions in many countries. It will also address the role schools play in making science an attractive career choice.

Modernisation is generally focused on some critical issues such as: autonomy, funding, accountability, partnership with businesses, quality of research, intellectual property rights, open access to research results, contribution to innovation, commu-

nity engagement, etc. Human resources, however, are often not included as one of the main issues – and gender issues are rarely considered.

However, no true modernisation of universities and research institutions can take place if the social relationships governing these remain based on and ruled by stereotypes – i.e. if excellence is biased or if innovativeness is not promoted through "diverse thinking". Gender-bias is often the source of the more-ingrained stereotypes: tackling it in the management of universities and research institutions could provide the basis for radical change in other fields.

Because the majority of gender-based stereotypes are already acquired at school, discussion on possible measures should start at school level through the

identification and elimination of old-fashioned regulations, teaching methods and teaching materials.

Ten years of EU experience in analysing the situation regarding the field of women in science has demonstrated that the direct commitment of institutions is essential in attracting and keeping women, and men, in science.

The conference will offer the opportunity to highlight best practices, adopted in the EU and third country institutions; to discuss these issues, and identify which measures could be promoted in the future.

For more information about the event and for registration, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1860>

## New European Parliament report on “better careers and more mobility: a European partnership for researchers”

On 12 February 2009, the European Parliament Committee on Industry Research and Energy has unanimously adopted a report on “better careers and more mobility: a European partnership for researchers”. This report drafted by Italian MEP Pia Elda Locatelli (PES) contains interesting measures to be taken to boost mobility and make careers in research more attractive.

The report says that in order to boost mobility and exchange between scientists, member states should introduce portable grants, which would allow researchers to conduct research in another member state if facilities are not available in their home universities or institutes. A "research voucher" scheme, which would see research institutions and universities receive funding from another member state for hosting researchers from that country, has been also proposed.

The report also states that the profile of scientific research in the general budget should be raised in order to achieve the target of training 600,000 more researchers, on average, by 2010. Member states must also encourage European scientists working outside the EU to return by increasing their salaries. Together with the Commission should review the legal position of PhD students across Europe to assess whether a uniform PhD student status could be introduced under employment legislation.

In addition, MEPs said entering the EU should be made easier for scientists from third countries who wish to work in Europe. A special visa for researchers to facilitate exchanges with non-EU researchers could also be considered, according to the report.

The report will be considered at the Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg in March 2009.

## Engendering the Knowledge Society: Measuring Women's Participation

Gender-disaggregated data relating to science, technology, ICT and the workforce from over 50 countries are now available at the WIGSAT web site. These data were researched and collected as part of the Orbicom-WIGSAT project on Engendering the Knowledge Society: Measuring Women's Participation.

The data are used by the project Engendering the Knowledge Society: Measuring Women's Participation, which developed an indicator framework to measure the ability of countries to build on the contributions of women for national innovation and knowledge development. For this, data are needed that provide the best and most useful information on gendered opportunities and challenges, and will allow the best decisions to be made. The project addresses options and strategies for countries and institutions to encourage women to make full, active, informed and creative contributions to innovation and technology in the knowledge society. See <http://www.wigsat.org/node/8>

## Expert database on gender and ICTs

The International Taskforce on Women in ICTs ([www.itfwomenict.org](http://www.itfwomenict.org)) is a community of expertise of organizations, institutions and individuals working to increase the economic, social, and educational opportunities for women and girls in the knowledge society in a measurable way. It focuses on four main areas of activity relating to gender and ICT: Education, Workforce, Entrepreneurship and Leadership.

The ITF runs an expert database on gender and ICTs which is hosted by WIGSAT-Women, Knowledge Technology. It is a resource

for agencies, private sector, governments, NGOs and others looking for experts, speakers, consultants, advisors, or partners on the gender dimensions of ICTs relating to :

- The use of ICTs by women and to improve women's lives
- Computing, design and the IT sector
- IT education and professional development for a diverse workforce
- ICT-based and e-education and
- ICT-supported entrepreneurship.

The ITF uses this database to provide expertise in its work with major international ICT4D initiatives, such as the UN Global Alliance on ICTs for Development, the Global Knowledge Partnership, and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also contribute to the expansion of the ITF Global Women and Technology initiative.

The initiators are specially looking for gender experts in the area of ICT, Innovation and Education.

To submit a profile to the database, go to <http://taskforce.wigsat.org>.

## Answer DRIVER online questionnaire

DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research), a project co-funded by FP7, invites all European researchers to comment on the DRIVER Search service <http://www.driver-repository.eu/Usability/drvport.htm>.

DRIVER is building an infrastructure of digital repositories across Europe ([www.driver-community.eu](http://www.driver-community.eu)). It currently harvests the content of repositories from 23 European countries allowing retrieval of a wealth of Open Access research materials. New services and features are being developed by DRIVER such as discipline-specific formats and communities.

If you want to help the shaping of these new communication tools and share what you think of the initiative complete the short online questionnaire <http://www.driver-repository.eu/Usability/drvport.htm> . All completed questionnaires will be entered in a prize draw for Amazon vouchers.

## Call for Proposals: Euroscience Open Forum 2010

The next Euroscience Open Forum ESOF 2010 will take place in Torino, Italy, on 2-7 July 2010, under the slogan Passion for Science. It will be a unique opportunity to meet and to discuss important issues in which science and technology play a central role.

The Scientific Programme will be the core of ESOF 2010, hosting round tables, workshops, debates and seminars, which will address the most topical issues in scientific research and explore the interactions between researchers, industry, policy, media, and the wider public.

An open Call for Proposals on the website [www.esof2010.org](http://www.esof2010.org) has been launched. Everyone is welcome to submit proposals according to the ESOF guidelines. The deadline is set on 15 June 2009.

Link to a PDF version of the Call for proposals: [http://www.esof2010.org/media/call\\_sc\\_pr/data](http://www.esof2010.org/media/call_sc_pr/data).

## TWAS 2009 Prizes

TWAS, the Third World Academy of Sciences, based in Trieste, organises its 2009 Prizes that will be awarded to individual scientists who have been working and living in a developing country for at least ten years, in recognition of an outstanding contribution to knowledge in the following eight fields of science: Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Mathematics, Medical Sciences and Physics.

Candidates must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

1. Scientific research achievement of outstanding significance for the development of scientific thought.
2. Outstanding contribution to the application of Science and Technology to industry or to human well-being in a developing country.

Each prize will carry a monetary award of US\$ 15,000 and

a plaque bearing a citation highlighting the major contribution for which the prize is awarded.

The deadline for receiving nominations is 31 March 2009.

Nominations of excellent women scientists are especially encouraged.

Further details on eligibility criteria and submission procedure are available online at: <http://www.twas.org>.

## Tech Awards

The Tech Awards is a programme that aims to honour and award innovators from around the world who use technology to benefit humanity. Five Laureates in each category are honoured, and one Laureate per category receives US\$50,000. The categories are: Education, Equality, Economic Development, Environment and Health.

The purpose of The Tech Awards programme is to inspire future scientists, technologists, and dreamers to harness the power and "promise of technology to solve the challenges that confront us at the dawn of the 21st Century".

The Tech Awards focus on the power of individuals, teams, and organisations around the world and in all sectors. In instances where work is performed in large or well-funded organisations, recognition will be made to the entrepreneurial individuals and/or teams that fostered innovations which challenged existing paradigms to serve the common good of humanity.

Nominations and applications must be submitted online in English. The deadline for application is 27 March 2009. Application Information and criteria can be found under: <http://techawards.thetech.org/>.

## Upcoming Events

### **1. Third Edition of the Forum JUMP, Brussels, Belgium, 23 April 2009**

JUMP is an event dedicated to professional life of women and their career planning that offers a wide range of tools to reinforce women's empowerment and position in the economy. EPWS can get a special attendance fee of 250€ by sending an email to: [info@forumjump.be](mailto:info@forumjump.be). For further information, please check: <http://www.forumjump.be/>

### **2. 5th European Symposium on Gender & ICT Digital Cultures: Participation - Empowerment - Diversity, University of Bremen, Germany, 5-7 March 2009**

The Symposium will take a closer look at the complex interdependences between gender and ICT. Analyses of current ICT use and education on a global level and under various local conditions will be presented and new constructive approaches to gender-aware software design will be identified at the conference. Innovative solutions to overcome the barriers, to encourage participation, and to equally empower women and men by means of Information Technology will be discussed.

Check conference website: <http://www.informatik.unibremen.de/frautec/gict2009/page/home.html>

### **3. Changing research landscapes to make the most of human potential, Prague, Czech Republic, 14-15 May 2009**

The European Commission is organising in collaboration with the Czech Presidency a conference in Prague to analyse 10 years of EU activities within "Women and Science", and beyond.

For more information about the event and for registration, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1860>

### **4. International Doctoral Seminar, Smolenice Castle, Slovakia, 17-19 May 2009**

The Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava organizes a Doctoral Seminar to provide a platform for doctoral and research students at different stages of their studies, to present their ideas, problems, and issues in an academically rigorous but supportive environment.

For further information, please contact: Jana Stefankova, [jana.stefankova@stuba.sk](mailto:jana.stefankova@stuba.sk)

### **5. Women's International Research Engineering Summit (WIRES), Barcelona, Spain, 2-4 June 2009**

The aim of this Summit hosted by the European Science Foundation and US National Science Foundation is to enable meaningful & sustainable research exchanges between female engineers from around the world while identifying issues faced by females pursuing careers in engineering that could benefit from a global strategy.

Check the website: <http://www.wires.gatech.edu/>

### **6. EuroNanoForum 2009: "Nanotechnology for a Sustainable Economy", Prague, Czech Republic, 2-5 June, 2009**

This Czech Presidency event is the fourth of a set of international nanotechnology conferences organized as official organised with the support of the European Commission. The objective is to address the contribution and challenges of nanotechnology research for a sustainable development of European industry and society.

Web page: [www.euronanoforum2009.eu](http://www.euronanoforum2009.eu)

### **7. Science Forum 2009, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 16-17 June 2009**

Organised by the Science Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), in partnership with the Alliance of the CGIAR Centres and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), and hosted by the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

The Forum will focus on innovative science and the arrangements that can help to mobilise it more effectively to address poverty alleviation and sustainable natural resource management.

See <http://www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org/events/science-forum/en/> or contact [scienceforum2009@cgiar.org](mailto:scienceforum2009@cgiar.org).

### **8. EPWS Annual Conference, Brussels, Belgium, 25-26 June 2009**

Organised in collaboration with Belgian Women in Science (BeWiSe), the EPWS Annual Conference 2009 will take place in Brussels and on the second day for the first time include the running of two EPWS Seminars, one on "Management of Networks" the other "Access to Funding". The conference programme will be available shortly on the EPWS website:

[www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org).

## Published Calls

**EPWS does not take responsibility for the correctness of the information below. New up-dates might have come out. Please go to <http://cordis.europa.eu/> for official information.**

### **1. COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (CIP): Third Call for Proposals: ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)**

Publication Date: 29 January 2009      Deadline: 2 June 2009      Budget: 99.5 million Euro

More info: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/participating/calls/call\\_proposals\\_09/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/participating/calls/call_proposals_09/index_en.htm)

### **2. ERC Advanced Investigators Grant 2009**

Publication Date: 19 November 2008      Budget: € 489 538 000

Please note that 'ERC-2009-AdG' consists of three sub-calls:

ERC-2009-AdG\_20090325 for the domain Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), with deadline 25 March 2009

ERC-2009-AdG\_20090415 for the domain Social Sciences and Humanities (SH), with deadline 15 April 2009

ERC-2009-AdG\_20090506 for the domain Life Sciences (LS), with deadline 6 May 2009

More info: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage#ERC>

### **3. FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IRSES: Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)**

Publication Date: 25 November 2008      Deadline: 27 March 2009      Budget: € 30 000 000

More info: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=174](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=174)

### **4. FP7-PEOPLE-2009-EURAXESS: Transnational operation of the EURAXESS Services Network**

Publication Date: 22 January 2009      Deadline: 22 April 2009      Budget: € 2 900 000

More info: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=193#infopack](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=193#infopack)

### **5. FP7-KBBE-2009-17087: Regional Biotechnology: Establishing a methodology and performance indicators for assessing bioclusters and bioregions relevant to the Knowledge-based Bio-economy (KBBE)**

Publication Date: 21 January 2009      Deadline: 03 March 2009      Budget: € 400 000

More info: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=196](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=196)

### **6. FP7-Fission-2009: Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection**

Publication Date: 19 November 2008      Deadline: 21 April 2009      Budget: € 48 905 000

More info: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=182](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=182)

### **7. FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2009-1: Research Infrastructures**

Publication Date: 09 December 2008      Deadline: 17 March 2009      Budget: € 9 600 000

More info: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=190](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dcl/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=190)

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