



## European Platform of Women Scientists NEWSLETTER, Issue 2, June 2006

### SUMMARY

1.	Editorial	1-2
2.	What does EPWS offer?	2
3.	Suggested working structure of the European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL	3-4
4.	EPWS membership categories	4-5
5.	EPWS full membership privileges	5
6.	EPWS membership at a glance	6
7.	EPWS Network Questionnaire	7
8.	Meetings with COST DC delegates	7
9.	2006 WiST Report	7
10.	She Figures 2006	7-8
11.	European Parliament adopts report on FP7	8
12.	EC Communication on how to modernise Europe's universities	8
13.	Public consultation on transnational research cooperation and knowledge transfer between public research organisations and industry	8-9
14.	European Institute of Technology	9
15.	European Parliament adopts the CIP	9
16.	MEPs paired with scientists	9
17.	Events	9-10

### Editorial

Dear Readers,

In the last issue of the EPWS Newsletter, we presented the EPWS Secretariat in Brussels and the members of the EPWS Board of Administration and Executive Committee to give a face to the Platform. However, there is more to the Platform than these two bodies. The European Platform of Women Scientists is designed as a membership association which networks of women scientists and others can join. Its highest authority is the General Assembly of its members. This issue of the Newsletter will tell you how to get there.

We will inform you on what we offer as an association, how the structures of EPWS are designed to involve you in our common endeavour, what different categories of membership are available and what will be the privileges of full membership.

EPWS focuses on formalised networks, i.e. legally registered non-profit organisations rather than informal networks or individuals as full members with active and passive voting rights. Our reasons for doing so are directly related to the core of our endeavour: For EPWS to be able to one day represent Europe's women scientists with democratic legitimacy and truly speak in their name, the Association has to make sure that this voice is democratically traceable throughout its membership body.

To be operational on the European level, the Association will not be able to contact every individual woman scientist in Europe for their opinion. It has to rely on cooperation with the democratically elected representatives of individual women scientists in each country and discipline – a condition which only formalised democratic associations can meet. That is why we primarily address registered associations and other formalised networks in the community and that is why we ask for your

statutes and other information material in our Membership Application Form.

We expect, however, to meet different degrees of formalisation in the structures of cooperation among women scientists in Europe, possibly varying from discipline to discipline and country to country. To take account of this situation, we have envisaged a transitory period for those networks that are not yet formalised but are in the process or willing to do so in the future.

The focus on formalised networks and registered associations as full members of the Association will strengthen the voice of the Platform in the policy debate. It will hopefully also inspire and encourage existing informal networks to formalise their work and thus strengthen their own voices on the national and European level as well, since it will make them eligible as project partners and give them access to public sources of funding.

Many of you have followed our standing invitation and visited us at the EPWS office in Brussels. We very much welcome this opportunity to meet each other in person and learn about your projects, the situations of women scientists in your respective countries and your visions on the directions to go.

So, please continue your visits and last but not least: Please join the European Platform of Women Scientists so that we might intensify communication and collaborate in the future!

Maren Jochimsen  
*EPWS Secretary General*

### What does EPWS offer?

#### We will:

- ✓ Network existing networks of women scientists and networks engaged in promoting women scientists in all scientific fields
- ✓ Promote networking among women scientists, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and the private sector
- ✓ Promote the understanding and the inclusion of the gender issue in science and research policy in all scientific fields

- ✓ Ensure that women scientists' concerns, needs, interest and aspirations are taken into consideration when setting the political research agenda
- ✓ Facilitate the policy debate among member networks via an innovative, user-driven electronic platform

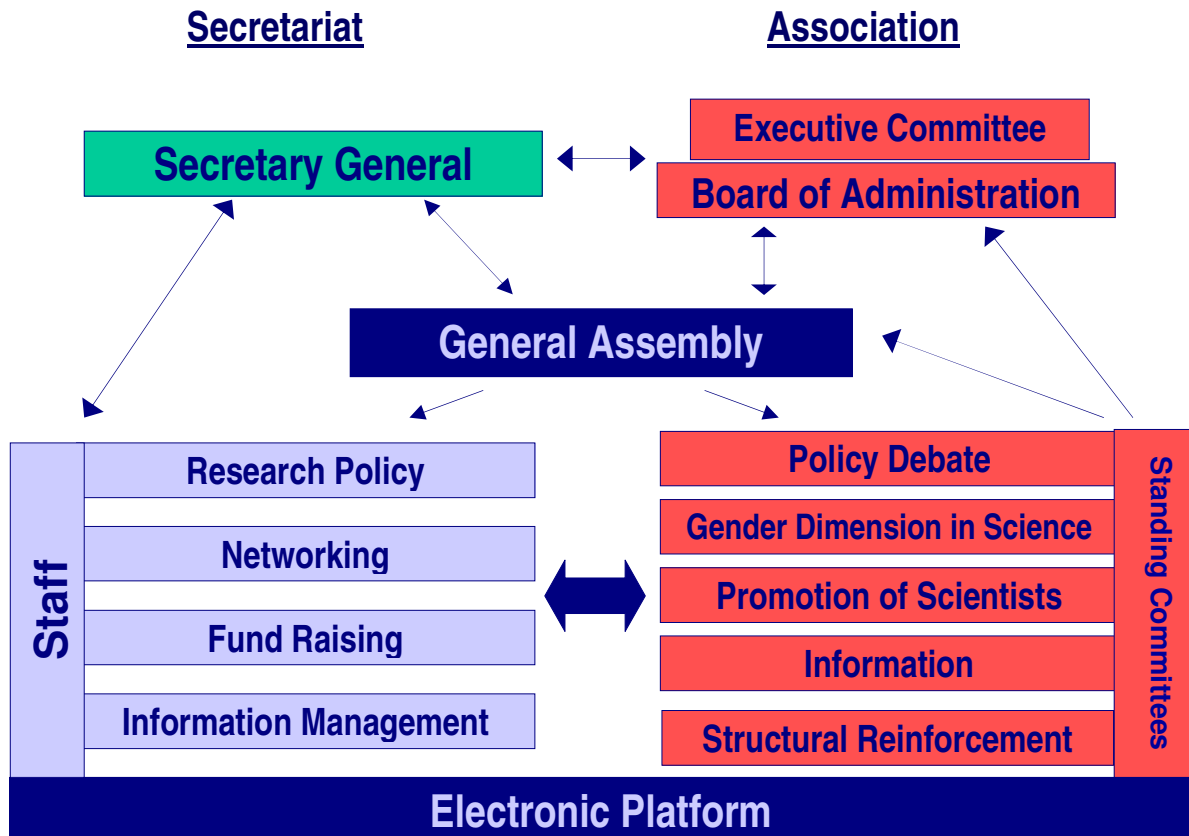
#### Our aims are to:

- ✓ Enhance the professional and career advancement of women scientists
- ✓ Empower women scientists to participate in the research policy debate

#### We provide:

- ✓ Excellent networking opportunities within and beyond your discipline, your geographical area, the European Research Area
- ✓ Solid know how on current EU research policy development and the possibilities to intervene at EU level
- ✓ Inside knowledge on how to overcome obstacles for women scientists in Europe and to participate to their full potential in EU research activities
- ✓ Keys into EU research policy and a coordinated response on central issues of the policy debate
- ✓ A wide range of contacts to the scientific communities across Europe
- ✓ Help to embed women scientists in networks and put them in touch with possible scientific partners
- ✓ Advice for structural reinforcement and for financial support to networks
- ✓ Experts to boards and panels
- ✓ Expert advice on gender related issues as well as guidance on gender action plans
- ✓ An experienced interdisciplinary international Board of Administration
- ✓ A dynamic highly-qualified secretariat, representing different professional backgrounds, scientific fields and nationalities

**Suggested Working Structure of the European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL**



The European Platform of Women Scientists has the legal form of an AISBL, i.e. an international non-profit association according to Belgian law (**A**ssociation **I**nternationale **S**ans **B**ut **L**ucratif). Its Statutes foresee the following bodies of the Association:

The **General Assembly** is the highest authority of the Association. It consists of delegates nominated by the current full members of the Association. Its powers include the setting of the policies and priorities of the Association, the adoption of the budget, accounts, work programme of the Association, the election and dismissal of Board of Administration members.

The **Standing Committees** consist of delegates of full members to prepare policy and

other position papers to be adopted by the Board of Administration or presented for adoption to the General Assembly. The Association will have at least the following Standing Committees (SCs):

*SC "Monitoring the Policy Debate"* will be in charge of the preparation of policy statements around gender issues for national, regional, and EU levels including top-down support measures.

*SC "Gender Dimension in Science"* will promote the integration of the gender dimension in research at EU and national levels and analyse and target the under-representation of women scientists in certain

areas of research as well as with respect to key positions in the profession.

SC “*Promotion of Women Scientists*” will ensure the exchange of good practices in areas such as mentoring schemes, the use of role models as well as quantitative and qualitative measurements concerning the promotion of women scientists.

SC “*Information and Public Relations*” will develop dissemination strategies, organise media campaigns and create databases of role models and mentors to enhance awareness of the role and contribution of women scientists in research and render their impact in research policy more visible.

SC “*Structural Reinforcement*” will offer practical help on the creation of new and on the sustainability of recently created networks, such as information and advice to ensure democratic and transparent procedures, foster collaboration and mergers as well as to establish national nodes.

All full members of the Association are obliged to designate one of their members to engage in one to the Standing Committees of their choice and actively participate in their work. Associate members can be invited to participate in one of the Standing Committees on a guest basis upon invitation by the Board of Administration.

The General Assembly can set up further Standing Committees as need arises for the effective achievement of the goals of the Association.

The **Board of Administration** has the power to manage the Association, except for the powers explicitly reserved for the General Assembly or the Executive Committee. Its powers include the election of the President and of the Executive Committee, the approval of the annual work plan, budget and accounts, recommendations for full membership in preparation of the General Assembly.

The **Executive Committee** consists of the *President*, the *Vice-President(s)* and the *Treasurer* and is elected from among the members of the Board of Administration. Its powers and responsibilities include ensuring effective management, ongoing supervision of

finances, preparing the draft work plan and the draft annual budget of the Association as well as its external relations.

### EPWS membership categories

The European Platform of Women Scientists AISBL addresses women scientists’ organisations and networks, as well as organisations committed to gender issues and gender research in science, the women’s sections of mixed science organisations, individual supporting members, and supporting organisations as members.

According to its Statutes (the full English version of the EPWS Statutes may be downloaded from the EPWS web site [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)), the Association offers four categories of membership:

- Full Members
- Associate Members
- Individual supporting members
- Supporting Organisations

**Full Members** (Article 5) represent:

- national nodes, national organisations and networks of women scientists
- organisations and networks committed to the promotion of women scientists, such as associations of equal opportunity officers or research councils
- organisations and networks committed to gender issues and gender research in science
- women’s sections of mixed science organisations

They are:

- operative on an EU member state basis or
- representative either on a discipline or a geographical basis
- from the European Union, the European Economic Area countries, acceding and candidate countries and associated countries to the RTD Framework Programme

Full Members must:

- have legal status in their own member state/ country as a non-governmental organisation or have a legal status recognized by international law
- be legally registered as a non profit making organisation
- demonstrate a clear commitment to gender equality on the basis of past and current activities and future plans
- act independently of any political party or religious authority

All applications for full membership which do not immediately fulfil the criteria will have three years in which to make their organisations ready to comply with the criteria for full membership.

**Associate Members** (Article 6) are:

- key individuals from countries without established structures
- organisations that are committed to the purpose and the aims of the Association that do not comply with the basic requirements (as yet)

**Individual Supporting Members** (Article 7) are individuals who accept the Association's purpose and aims and support the Association.

**Supporting Organisations** (Article 8) are public or private institutions, foundations, organisations or companies committed to supporting the aims and objectives of the Association.

### EPWS full membership privileges

✓ **Support**

- in understanding EU administration for participation in EU funding
- to cross-disciplinary and cross-national research projects relating to research for, by and about women, also including the inspiration of projects
- in identifying relevant EU officials and the scheduling of meetings with them
- in organising seminars, workshops and other events in Brussels
- in hosting meetings with officials, peers, members of other networks on the premises of the EPWS Secretariat

✓ **Participation**

- enjoy active and passive voting rights
- get involved in the work of the Platform in crucial areas via Standing Committees
- members' only activities such as conferences and workshops on current policy topics, networking strategies etc., including free exhibition space at EPWS events

✓ **Free** monthly Newsletter, regularly updated website, important news alerts via e-mail

✓ **EPWS website**

- network profile featured
- personal login to membership section allowing you to
  - be visible and actively join an international association networking networks of women scientists – in your discipline/ field of research, in your geographical area, throughout Europe
  - post and disseminate information on your network, projects, research interest and results to an open and active membership community
  - access to news and articles posted by members

## EPWS membership at a glance

EPWS Membership*	Full Members	Associate Members	Individual Supporting Members	Supporting Organisations
Participation in General Assembly	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
Eligibility to Organisational Structure of the Association	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
Voting Rights	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
Participation in Standing Committees	<i>yes ongoing contribution</i>	<i>yes by invitation</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
Attendance to EPWS Conferences and Seminars	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Access to Newsletter and Publications	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
Annual Membership Fee**	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>financial or in-kind contribution</i>

\*The EPWS Membership Application Form is available online or as download document on our website [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org) in the "Become a Member" section.

⇒ **\*\*There will be no membership fee during the initial stage of the Platform.  
The membership fee will be determined by the first General Assembly in 2007.**

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or send an e-mail to [membership@epws.org](mailto:membership@epws.org).

### EPWS Network Questionnaire

After an initial screening of networks of women scientists across Europe on the basis of the European Commission's Directory of Networks of Women Scientists ("Network Guide") published in 2003, EPWS has now started to gather further information on existing networks of women scientists in different fields of research and their interest in the Platform.

With the help of the EPWS Network Questionnaire (the online version as well as the word document for download can be found on the EPWS website) we will be able to update information on networks of women scientists and those promoting women scientists in Europe and to facilitate networking among them.

The input will also allow us to prepare a stimulating and interesting Network Event in Brussels on 20 October 2006.

### Meetings with COST DC delegates

On 15-19 May 2006, COST (European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) organised the first Domain Committee (DC) meetings after the restructuring decided at the end of 2005.

On this occasion, the EPWS Secretariat contacted the scientific officers of all the committees and, more particularly, the female national delegates in order to inform them on the Platform and its objectives.

The EPWS team met with women national representatives, highly-ranking scientists, from the following countries: Turkey, Iceland, Slovakia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Hungary and Bulgaria.

Fruitful exchange of information took place, on the one hand on EU research and mainstreaming policy and, on the other, on the situation of the women scientists in different countries and their possibilities to promote their interests into the political debate.

### 2006 WiST Report

On 15-16 May 2006, the Conference "Re-searching Women in Science and Technology" was organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the Austrian Presidency in Vienna.

On this occasion, the findings of the Women in Science and Technology (WiST) working group were presented, summarizing 12 months of work with multi-national companies. Key elements of this report refer to the women's under-representation in the private sector and to the conclusion that companies with well-managed gender mainstreaming policies often see an improvement in their economic performance.

The WiST working group, composed of five scientists from the fields of social science, economics and human resources, and of approximately fifteen multi-national companies was chaired by Pierre Bismuth, Human Resources Director of Schlumberger. The aim of the group was to analyse the business perspective for gender diversity in enterprises and more particularly in their research departments.

The report can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/wist\\_report\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/wist_report_final_en.pdf)

### She Figures 2006

At the conference "Re-searching Women in Science and Technology" held in Vienna on 15-16 May 2006, the European Commission released the latest figures on women in science and technology - "She Figures 2006". The data show that the number of women researchers in universities and businesses continues to increase.

The "She Figures 2006" booklet gives an overview of the situation for women in science in 2004, providing data on specific gender differences across employment sectors, education subjects and levels, and examining

the extent of the contribution that women make to set the scientific agenda. The report updates the "She Figures 2003" and includes new statistics on the gender-pay gap in selected business sectors. The document can be downloaded from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/she\\_figures\\_2006\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/she_figures_2006_en.pdf)

### **European Parliament adopts report on FP7**

On 15 June 2006, the European Parliament adopted MEP Jerzy Buzek's report on the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7).

The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) endorsed the overall structure of FP7, which will consist of four specific programmes (Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities) covering a number of thematic areas.

On the latter, MEPs propose to split the thematic research area "Security and Space", proposed by the Commission, into two separate areas. FP7's *Co-operation* programme would thus consist of 10 themes: Health; Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology; Information and Communication Technologies; Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies; Energy; Environment (including Climate Change); Transport (including Aeronautics); Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities; Security; Space.

MEPs are keen to encourage participation in FP7 of small and medium-sized firms (SMEs), and to boost the position of young researchers and women in science.

The Parliament welcomed the creation of the European Research Council (ERC), but wanted to be sure this body would enjoy real autonomy. The MEPs suggest it should be set up as an Executive Agency, before becoming an independent structure after a brief transition phase.

On 28 June 2006, the European Commission adopted an amended proposal for FP7, which

seeks to incorporate amendments made by the European Parliament.

The Commission's amended proposal concerning FP7 which will make the object of new debates in the Parliament and in the Council before final adoption can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/documents\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/documents_en.html)

### **EC Communication on how to modernise Europe's universities**

Mid-May, the European Commission released the Communication "Delivering on the modernisation agenda for universities: education, research and innovation" (COM(2006) 208 final).

The Commission's suggestions cover all activities of Europe's universities: their delivery of education, their research activities, and their potential as drivers of innovation.

This text responds to a request made at the informal meeting of the European Council in Hampton Court in October 2005 to identify areas for action in universities that can be used to drive forward the Growth and Jobs agenda.

The full text of the Communication can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/pdf/COM\(2006\)\\_208.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/pdf/COM(2006)_208.pdf)

### **Public consultation on transnational research cooperation and knowledge transfer between public research organisations and industry**

The European Commission's Research Directorate-General, in cooperation with the Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, is consulting stakeholders on their needs in relation to transnational research cooperation and knowledge transfer between public research organisations (PROs - including universities, polytechnics and other public sector organisations involved in research) and industry and on possible actions in this field.

On the basis of the replies and of stakeholder and expert input, the Commission intends to prepare a Communication on ways to foster and facilitate cooperation between industry and public research organisations and knowledge transfer in Europe. This Communication will complement other European Commission initiatives such as the recent Communication on "Mobilising the brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy" (COM(2005)152).

The consultation will be open until 19 July.  
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=KTconsultation>

### European Institute of Technology

On 8 June 2006, the Commission adopted a new Communication presenting its plan for the establishment of a European Institute of Technology (EIT), called "The European Institute of Technology: further steps towards its creation" (COM(2006) 276 final).

In this document, the Commission presents the results of the consultation process launched in 2005 up to this point. This has led to a clarification of the proposed structure and functioning of the Institute.

Following this consultation, the Commission is expected to prepare a formal proposal towards the end of the year.

For more information please visit:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html)

### European Parliament adopts the CIP

The European Parliament adopted the EU's first 'Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme' (CIP) on 1 June 2006, allocating EUR 3.6 billion to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for the period 2007-2013.

CIP comprises three specific programmes: to help small businesses invest in all forms of innovation; boost energy efficiency; and

encourage improved use of information and communications technology (ICT).

Source: *Cordis Express* No. 190, 9 June 2006

### MEPs paired with scientists

On 31 May 2006 the UK's Royal Society has launched a scheme pairing MEPs and natural scientists in Brussels to bridge the gap between politics and research.

The seven scientists began a week in Brussels on 30 May. They spent time shadowing their MEP, meeting officials from EU institutions, and attending training sessions. During the summer, the MEPs will then visit their scientist in the laboratory, and the scientists will then pay a visit to their MEPs in their constituencies.

The Royal Society began the scheme five years ago in the UK, and has successfully paired over 100 MPs with scientists. This extension of the scheme to the EU-level is a pilot project. If successful, the programme will be extended to MEPs and scientists from around the EU.

Former Research Commissioner and ITRE Committee member Philippe Busquin announced his interest in extending the scheme, associating MEPs with EU-funded Integrated Projects.

For further information please visit:  
<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/news.asp?id=4764>  
Source: *Cordis Express* No. 190, 9 June 2006

### Events

#### 1. FP7 project proposal training course

The Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) is organising a training course on how to write project proposals for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to be held on 6 and 7 July in Rome, Italy.

For more information on the training course, please visit:

<http://www.apre.it/serviziapre/forma/corso.asp?id=42>

## *2. Science Policies Meet Reality: Gender, Women and Youth in Science in Central and Eastern Europe*

This conference is organised by the Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science in Prague, on 1-2 December 2006.

A **call for papers** is launched with **16 July 2006** as deadline.

For the first time in East-Central Europe participants will discuss current obstacles to successful science policy implementation and discrepancies between the status quo and stated goals concerning gender equality and the position of early stage researchers. This will be done through discussing/disseminating existing research and policy implementation practices.

More details and description of the panels:

<http://www.cec-wys.org/html/>

## *3. Excellence in the Life Science Area - adding the gender dimension*

On 5-6 October 2006, the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm is taking the initiative to reframe the discourse on scientific excellence. The aim is to discuss evaluation systems used in a life scientist's career chain from a gender perspective.

For more information: <http://ki.se/elsa>

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**References**

The articles published in the EPWS Newsletter are based on articles featured in different EU publications and information portals, booklets, advertising, seminars, conferences, etc.