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Editorial



Dear Readers,

Previous newsletters presented the Platform’s activities in the realm of networking and membership outreach as well as research policy monitoring. In this newsletter, it is the

information and public relations department’s turn to be looked at more closely.

The European Platform of Women Scientists has been created to encourage women scientists to publicly voice their interests, their suggestions on and their worries about the current paths taken in research and to make them aware of the role they can actively play in the research policy debate and in the shaping of research policy in Europe. EPWS, therefore, will provide information and establish frameworks for discussion to involve women scientists more actively in the European research policy process.

Via its general and targeted information and dissemination activities, the Platform will also

- Promote the gender dimension in research and give visibility to the work of women scientists
- Contribute to the public understanding of science by profiling the work of women scientists
- Contribute to raise general awareness of the women in science issue.

Its target groups include women scientists and their networks, including those promoting women scientists. It also addresses policy makers at EU, national and regional levels, universities and other research institutions, enterprises involved in industrial research or active in research intensive fields, lobbying groups as well as the general public.

To be able to adequately give visibility to women scientists and their contribution to the shaping of our societies, the Platform has to become visible itself. During the first months of its activities, information activities concentrated on making the Association known as new strategic instrument to the community of women scientists and those promoting women

scientists as well as EU research politicians in Brussels.

As you are well aware, we disseminated information on the Platform's goals and activities via the EPWS Newsletter and the EPWS website. Members of the EPWS Board of Administration and the Secretariat presented the Platform and its work at conferences, workshops and various other events in and outside Brussels. In the future, the Platform will support awareness raising for women scientists and contribute to the public understanding of science by profiling the work of women scientists.

You actively supported and continue to support the Platform by inviting us and giving us a floor to make the Association known to a broader public of scientists and research politicians. Thank you very much for doing so! We do appreciate your informing us on international events, workshops, conferences you are organizing and on events with topics of European-wide interest – all valuable information for our various publications.

While maintaining personal face-to-face contact is vital, EPWS is also offering an innovative electronic platform based on open source software as part of its community building effort. The EPWS Electronic Platform is one important device of EPWS information and public relations management. It is online since April 2005 under www.epws.org and has visitors from all over Europe and beyond. It provides different functionalities, briefly introduced in the flyer available on the EPWS website.

Since the opening of the Secretariat in Brussels, the Electronic Platform constantly further developed as the activities of the Platform expand. These days, the pilot phase of the EPWS Electronic Platform's restricted areas is about to start, giving future members of the Association even more chances to share information and participate in discussions in spaces accessible by password only.

At the EPWS Network Event on 20 October 2006, we have been encouraged by the participants to elaborate our role as communicators and translators to and from the community of women in science to research

politicians, research institutions, enterprises as well as the general public.

We are very willing to do so. Yet, again here, as concerning the Platform's other activities – be it networking or research policy making – we need your support and active participation in order to reach the goals of information activities.

Please keep us posted and we will do our best to disseminate the information to the wider community and beyond. It is together that we effectively spread the word.

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

EPWS Information Activities

The main objective of the EPWS information activities in the last months was to give the Platform visibility among women scientists, peer interest groups in Brussels and EU policy-makers by widely disseminating information on the Platform, its goals and its activities.

The main means used for this purpose are the EPWS website, newsletter and news alerts, flyer, media contacts and events attendance.

Website

The website was considerably developed since March 2006. The information contained now refers to the history behind the Platform's creation and its aims, the presentation of the Board of Administration members and the Secretariat in Brussels, news on the Association's actions and events organised, membership issues and related documents such as the Network Questionnaires and the EPWS Membership Application Form. The information materials produced by the Secretariat (newsletter, press releases and articles) as well as all other public publications such as EPWS Position Papers on research policy issues and replies to public consultations are also accessible on the website.

Till the end of 2006, the website will go through another major development, as new sections

will be added, taking into account the development of the Platform' activities.

Newsletter

The EPWS Newsletter is published monthly and as of now has more than 900 subscribers from all over the world, more than half of which have subscribed since March 2006.

Every issue is dedicated to a topic – this year to one of the Platform's fields of activity. The first issue in May presented the members of the Board of Administration and of the Secretariat, the June issue concentrated on membership issues and categories, the July issue reported on the interim results of the membership outreach, the August-September issue gave insights into the Platform's research policy activities and interest representation. The October issue gave an overview of the EPWS first Network Event in Brussels on 20 October 2006. Furthermore, the newsletter presents the latest developments in EU research policy, calls for papers, awards, fellowships and scholarships as well as upcoming events.

As the newsletter further develops, more sections will be added in order to promote the members of the Platform and their activities and in response to their ideas and expectations.

News alerts

The subscribers to the EPWS Newsletter also receive our news alerts. By sending out these messages we either aim at encouraging our readers to take part into EU public consultations – as we did e.g. concerning the future of the Internal Market and on research cooperation) – or at informing them on EPWS publications (e.g., the release of EPWS Position Papers) or up-coming events (e.g., the networking session organised by EPWS in Helsinki during the "IST 2006 - Strategies for Leadership" conference on 21-23 November 2006).

Flyer

The EPWS flyer, first published in March, has been recently updated. It contains a general presentation of the Platform, its objectives,

working structure and the members of the Board of Administration.

Since its first edition, more than 1500 copies have been distributed all over Europe by the members of the Board of Administration, the Secretariat as well as visitors to our office at various events and meetings.

Media contacts

EPWS benefits now from fruitful contacts with more than 100 journalists, information officers and other people in charge with communication in different organisations and on different internet portals. They either write about the Platform themselves or disseminate our articles, press releases and position papers.

As a result, some 150 articles have been published on the Platform and its activities all over Europe, from Spain and Portugal to Norway and from the UK to Poland and the Czech Republic. EPWS has also been included in around 10 international directories on research, women in science and gender organisations. However, these data are provisional, since the Platform is not informed nor has access to some information at national level or in certain languages and countries.

Events attendance

EPWS members of the Board of Administration and Secretariat attended meetings, workshops and conferences in Brussels and in different countries on the issues of research, gender, EU policy and decision-making in general, organised by EU institutions, industry organisations, professional associations, scientific networks, regional and scientific offices, and alike. These occasions represent great opportunities of introducing the Platform, finding out about national experiences on women and science all over Europe and meeting decision-makers, women scientists and peer stakeholders that can help EPWS in building alliances for common interests at EU level.

Kindly let us know international awards, scholarships, international workshops and seminars, conferences of European-wide interest and other information of interest to

women scientists throughout Europe so that we may disperse the information to a wider community through the EPWS newsletter. We are also grateful for any national and international media contacts pointed out to us to enhance the visibility of the Platform and its members on the national and regional level.

For further information on EPWS information and public relations activities and for dissemination of your own events and activities, please contact the EPWS Project Manager Information, Adelina Huminic-Orzu: adelina.huminic@epws.org.

Follow-up EPWS Network Event

Speeches and pictures from the EPWS Network Event, held in Brussels on 20 October 2006, are now available on the EPWS website in the "News" section.

First FP7 calls due soon



On 15 November 2006, the European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) adopted, in a second reading, a set of amendments on the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which were agreed upon in informal meetings with the Council.

If FP7 is adopted as expected by the Parliament and Council at the end of November, the first calls for proposals should be launched before the end of the year, and others in January. A total of €54 billion will be available under the EU research programme between 2007 and 2013 under four pillars: Cooperation, Capacities, Ideas and People. The Commission is currently in the process of adopting work programmes.

For further information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&RCN=26655&DOC=4&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1164210254056

EU Finnish Presidency launches the European Network of Living Labs

On 20 November 2006, the Finnish Presidency launched the European Network of Living Labs as a step towards the creation of a new European Innovation System (EIS).



The European Network of Living Labs is a collaboration of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) where companies, public authorities and people link up to share information, research and test new products in the fields of information and communication technologies (ICT) and mobile services.

The aim of the initiative is to stimulate innovation by moving research out of the laboratories and into the real life contexts of cities and regions where citizens and users will be encouraged to cooperate with researchers, developers and designers to contribute to the whole innovation process.

So far, about European 20 cities have signed up to the initiative, including the Spanish cities of Barcelona, Mataro and Sant Cugat, and the region of Catalonia, Budapest, Istanbul, London, Salzburg, Sophia-Antipolis in France, Stuttgart, Tallinn, Turin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo, the Swedish-Danish region of Oeresund, and the four Swedish cities of Lund, Malmoe, Vaestervik, and Stockholm.

For further information:

http://www.cdt.ltu.se/projectweb/4421cddc626cb/Intro_2.html

Launch of the European Technology Platform for Wind Energy

The European Technology Platform for Wind Energy (TPWind) was officially launched in October 2006, raising the profile of European

research in the field of renewable energy sources.



At the launch conference in Brussels, public officials and industry professionals affirmed the leading role research and development will take during first stages in the development of the platform.

Wind energy technology is the leading source of renewable energy in Europe, and if properly funded, expected to produce 23% of EU electricity by 2030. TPWind is designed to help the EU achieve this goal by, among other things, developing a collaborative strategy for innovative technology research and development.

For further information:

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

ITER parties sign agreement



On 21 November 2006, representatives from the seven parties to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) have signed the agreement establishing the international

organisation that will implement the project.

When completed, ITER will produce energy by nuclear fusion, whereby two lighter atoms fuse together to make a larger atom, releasing large amounts of energy in the process. Fusion is the energy source that powers the stars.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.iter.org/index.htm>

Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship 2007

As part of Google's ongoing commitment to encourage women to excel in computing and technology, the Google Europe Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship 2007 has been launched.

Scholarships will be awarded based on the strength of candidates' academic background and engagement within the technology community. A group of female BSc, MSc, and PhD student finalists will be chosen from the applicant pool. The scholarship recipients, selected from the finalists, will each receive a €5,000 (or equivalent) scholarship for the 2007/2008 academic year.

For more information:

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

Call for Papers – Gender in International Political Economy

A call for papers has been launched for the second "Gender in International Political Economy" (GIPE) Workshop, to be held in Budapest, at the Central European University, on 22-24 February 2007.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 8 December 2006.

The suggested research areas combine innovative research fields: gender and international heterodox economics, the role of knowledge production in policy making, knowledge networks, balance between public and private socio-economic activities, the relationship between trade, finance and social reproduction, the relations among different levels of macro-, meso- and microeconomic governance, the role of the "social" in macroeconomic governance.

For further information please contact Antonia Graf: antoniag@uni-muenster.de

Call for Papers – IST-Africa 2007 Conference and Exhibition

Global Knowledge Partnership launches a call for Papers for the IST-Africa 2007 Conference and Exhibition, to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 9-11 May 2007.

IST-Africa 2007 will focus on Applied IST research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges, which is part of the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) programme.

Part of the IST-Africa Initiative, which is supported by the European Commission under the IST Programme of Framework Programme 6 (FP6), IST-Africa 2007 is the second in an Annual Conference Series which brings together delegates from leading commercial,

government & research organisations across Africa and from Europe, to bridge the Digital Divide by sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice.

For further information:
<http://www.ist-africa.org/>

Encouragement to Advance – Training Seminars for Women Scientists

The Center of Excellence Women and Science (CEWS) launches the EU-project for women scientists “Encouragement to Advance – Training Seminars for Women Scientists”.

From April 2007 to January 2008 sixteen seminars with fourteen participants at each seminar will be held in Brussels, thus building a network of around 200 European women scientists from all disciplines.

In a four-day long international application and career training seminar, highly qualified women scientists are prepared for appointment and application procedures for professorships in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. The seminars address women scientists who do not yet hold a position as a (full) professor, qualified as PhD or equivalent more than six years ago and have a grasp of the general landscape of academia in one of the named countries.

The objective of the programme is to empower women scientists within the European Research Area (ERA) and to increase their participation in European science and research. In order to stimulate mobility and supranational scientific careers, the project aims to reduce boundaries as well as flattening loss through mechanisms such as the ‘leaky pipeline’ in higher education.

Official announcements will be made by December 2006.

Please see <http://www.cews.org> for further information from December onwards, or get in touch directly with the coordinator, Ms. Anke Lipinsky through: anke.lipinsky@cews.org.

List of scholarship opportunities

In response to the large number of enquiries that the BRIDGE-hosted web resource Siyanda www.siyanda.org receives from women who are looking for funding for study, research and training, BRIDGE (Institute of Development Studies (IDS)) have compiled a list of scholarship opportunities available for women in different regions of the world. The internet offers information on various types of

scholarships and lists those scholarships which BRIDGE and Siyanda find of most interest.

The list includes two types of scholarships: ‘scholarships for women’ and ‘scholarships in general’. Details have been extracted from funders’ websites and as such information is subject to change. Therefore, please check the individual websites for full and up-to-date information.

http://www.wunrn.com/news/09_25_06/100106_scholarship_reference.htm

Source: Karat Coalition

Upcoming events

1. *SYSTEM@TIC first forum on innovation*, Paris (France), 8 December 2006

<http://www.events-systematic-paris-region.org/enhome.htm>

2. *Workshop on nanotechnology transfer in Europe*, Paris (France), 13 December 2006

<http://www.nanosprint.com/workshop/2006/index.html>

3. *Kick-off event for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)*, in Bonn (Germany), 15 January 2007

EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik and German Minister for Education and Research Annette Schavan will open the event called *The Seventh EU Research Framework Programme - Europe on its way to the top*.

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/rp7-auftakt.php>

4. *Managing the University Community Workshop "Human Resource Development in Universities: Its role in leading and implementing change"*, Milan (Italy), 19-20 January 2007

www.eua.be/eua/en/Milan_Workshop.jsp

5. *Gender-Sensitivity and Pluralism in Mathematics Education*, Barcelona (Spain), 25-26 January 2007

<http://prema.iacm.forth.gr/workshop.php>

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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.