



European Platform of Women Scientists NEWSLETTER, Issue 8, January 2007

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

2007 has started and with it one of the most important, much awaited events of European Research Policy and for European researchers and their international partners: The European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development 2007-2013 (FP7) has been officially launched – longer in duration and bigger in budget than any previous EU Framework Programme. Numerous information days on FP7 are organised in Brussels and all over Europe. The first calls in each of the four specific programmes, including the first calls of the European Research Council (ERC), have been published or announced, additional documents and information materials are out or underway. Now the research community can get to it.

The European Platform of Women Scientists very much encourages women scientists and gender researchers to partake in the opportunities and advantages offered by FP7: Apply for project funding under FP7 and sign up in the Commission's database for expert evaluators!

You will find important general information on FP7 in this newsletter. More information regarding FP7 and the Platform's activities with respect to research policy monitoring and intervention, together with valuable links and downloads of official EU publications on women and science, are now available under the newly created Research Policy Button on the EPWS website. Additional information will be provided in the restricted area of the EPWS electronic platform, temporarily accessible to participants of the EPWS Network Event 2006 as well as future members of the Association.

A whole network of National Contact Points, national research liaison offices in Brussels,

Commission websites and other sources of information are out there to help you with answers to any questions you may have, with advice and help to make your application for funding successful.

EPWS will continue to keep you posted on the latest information via its newsletter and website. We will be there to help you find partners, provide information and addresses on the respective expert services and receive and act on any general experiences, comments and questions from your side in the course of FP7.

A look at the official EU documents on FP7 available so far reveals that Gender Action Plans (GAPs) are no longer mandatory at the evaluation stage as has been one of the outstanding achievements of FP6 and as argued for by EPWS in terms of consistency of EU research policy. Considering the inclusion of the gender dimension in projects to be proposed under FP7, it now depends on the specific wording of every work programme and every call and its demands whether gender is as a compulsory dimension or not. However, the Commission intends to follow its current principles of gender mainstreaming also in FP7 as is explained in more details below.

The Platform takes this development as an extra challenge and encouragement to pursue its goal of the promotion of women scientists and the integration of the gender dimension in research. The focus is now on the formulation of the area work programmes to be drafted anew every year.

The Platform will continue to monitor and comment the current and future developments in European research policy in general and analyse and report on the gender dimension in FP7 work programmes and calls in more particular. Help us by letting us know your queries, criticisms and opinion. A first online opportunity to do so already exists: Please join the EPWS discussion on excellence and give us *your* view on what the notion of excellence entails and on what appropriate indicators are so that we may feed your views into the public discussion.

To effectively do our work and truly represent the community of women scientists and those

promoting women scientists, we need your networks as members of our Association. So, please note our continuous call for membership and related information in this newsletter and on our website. Join the Platform and attend its First General Assembly in Brussels on 27/28 April 2007.

Have a good start to the year and make your participation in FP7 happen. Best of luck!

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

EPWS team complete

Since January 2007, EPWS has reached its full staff potential with the recruitment of its Project Manager Fund Raising.

Emmanuelle Causse holds a Master degree in European Studies from the University of Aalborg (Denmark) and a Diploma in European Public Affairs and Lobbying from the Institute for Public Affairs and Lobbying, Brussels (Belgium).

Prior to joining the European Platform of Women Scientists, she was a Project Researcher at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna (Austria), where she principally worked on the implementation of the EU social policy in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Gender Equality Directive.

Your view on Excellence

Since December 2006, EPWS hosts a debate on the issue of Excellence on its website.

Excellence is a central topic in academia and research policy. Key, but rarely defined. In order to adequately address research policy-makers, EPWS encourages female and male scientists to express their views on this topic:

(a) what, in your view, is excellence in science and research, and (b) what, in your view, are the indicators of excellence in science and research.

Please give us your opinion by either sending us an e-mail or fill in our questionnaire online.

Contact: Irina Michalowicz
irina.michalowicz@epws.org

New button “Policy Debate” on EPWS website

A new button – Policy Debate – has just been created in the menu of the EPWS website.

The information included there aims at providing women scientists with the instruments to get involved in the policy debate: the latest EU news in the research and gender equality fields, official publications of the European Commission on women and science (including policy papers and reports of different EU level expert groups on women in science), EPWS position papers as well as links to European institutions dealing with science and research, gender equality and women in science.

Restricted area on EPWS website now active

One of the main assets of EPWS is its electronic platform, especially its members’ only area, aimed at representing a stage for debate among the Association’s members.

Since November 2006, EPWS has invited potential future member networks having attended the EPWS Network Event on the 20th of October 2006 to log in the restricted area of the EPWS electronic platform. The registered people can use its first facilities in a pilot phase running until the first EPWS General Assembly on the 27th of April 2007:

- a *common calendar*, where users can see and post events of interest to the women and science community in different fields and all over Europe,
- discussion in one of the five *workgroups* (Gender Dimension in Science, Information, Structural Reinforcement, Promotion of Scientists, Policy Debate),
- the *forum* to publish and read calls for proposals, search for partners and to post comments and suggestions.

The calendar already contains several dozens events across Europe. Furthermore, the minutes of the different working groups during the EPWS Network Event are posted in the “Workgroups” section. The “Call for proposals” option in the “Forum” section contains an overview of the areas where the first FP7 calls for proposals were issued on 22 December 2007.

Up to now, there are some 40 people registered to use the EPWS electronic platform.

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

If your applications reach EPWS by 9 February 2007, they can be processed ahead of the General Assembly on 27 April.

For further information, please contact Marianne Schwarz da Silva:
e-mail: Marianne.dasilva@epws.org
tel.: +32 2 234 37 51

A Membership Application Form is included at the end of this newsletter.

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

First calls published under FP7

On 1 January 2007, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) came into force. It is the

EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe in the years to come and it will run from 2007 to 2013.

The first calls for proposals under FP7 have been already published on 22 December 2006. They cover all four specific programmes of FP7 (Cooperation, People, Ideas and Capacities) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) research activities. All calls can be found via the following link:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

There are a call fiche, a work programme, a general work programme and various annexes for every call on specific subject areas under the four specific programmes.

Of particular importance for potential applicants is the *call fiche* because it gives the timeline of the calls under every specific area. The *work programme* includes the description of the calls under a particular area, within a specific programme. The *annexes* include official documents relating to FP7 as well as guides for applicants in order to prepare and submit their application.

Please note that only electronic submissions of projects are accepted within FP7. Furthermore, the traditional Help Desk email service has been replaced by an Enquiry Service. In this case, public enquiries will be logged in a database and then passed through to the relevant department for expert handling.

Please not as well the importance of addressing ethics in the proposal and getting it right from the beginning. Indeed, the European Commission insists on ethical standards to be applied in the projects.

Cooperation

The specific programme "Cooperation" (with a total budget of €32.3 billion) refers to gaining leadership in key scientific and technology areas by supporting co-operation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities across the EU and with the rest of the world. Trans-national cooperation will remain the main instrument for carrying out research activities. This programme will consist of ten different thematic research areas: 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 Humanities; Space; Security.

A budget of €6.2 billion is foreseen for "Health". The deadline for proposals is 19 April 2007.

The budget for the "Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology" calls is €1.9 billion. The deadline is 2 May 2007.

The budget for "Information and Communication Technologies" is €10 billion. The deadline for this call is on 8 May 2007.

For "Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies" the budget is €3.5 billion and the deadline is on 4 May 2007.

The budget for "Energy" is €2.3 billion and the deadline is on 3 May 2007.

The budget for "Environment (including Climate Change)" is €2 billion. The deadline is on 2 May 2007.

The budget for "Socio-economic sciences and Humanities" is €0.6 billion. Depending on the subject, one of two deadlines applies: 10 May 2007 and 29 November 2007.

Transport (including Aeronautics) has a budget of €4.1 billion and the deadline is on 3 May 2007.

For "Space", the deadline is on 19 June 2007 and the budget is €0.3 billion.

For "Security" the budget is €0.8 billion, with the deadline on 31 May 2007.

Ideas

The specific programme "Ideas" refers to the establishment of an autonomous European Research Council (ERC), which will support and stimulate basic research carried out by teams competing at European level. Its overall budget is €7.4 billion.

The first grants regard "Starting Independent Researcher Grants" for junior researchers. Researchers will receive an individual grant covering 100% of the costs of a research project carried out by a research team. They will have to obtain the support of the research institution of their choice in order to apply. The overall budget of €2.9 billion will be distributed

over the entire period of FP7. Around 200 grants will be awarded in 2007. The deadlines for these calls are on 25 April 2007 and 17 September 2007.

People

“People”, which benefits from a budget of €4.7 billion, refers to the Marie Curie actions. They aim to strengthen training, the career prospects and mobility of European researchers. Special focus will be given to skills and career development, increasing mobility between university and industry, and strengthening links with national research systems.

Academic consortia can apply for “initial training networks” in order to offer an international, structured doctoral programme. The deadlines for applications are 7 May 2007 and 25 September 2007 and the budget for this initiative is €2.4 billion.

Other calls regard the Marie Curie International Reintegration Grants (deadlines: 25 April and 17 October 2007, budget €0.15 billion), Marie Curie European Reintegration Grants (deadlines: 25 April and 17 October 2007, budget €0.095 billion), the Marie Curie Awards (deadline: 26 April 2007, budget: €250,000) and two Marie Curie Researchers’ Night calls in 2007 (for the first call the deadline is 3 April and the budget is €3 million).

Capacities

The specific programme “Capacities”, with a total budget of €4.2 billion, refers to developing and fully exploiting the EU’s research capacities through large-scale research infrastructure, regional cooperation and innovating SMEs, as well as increased international co-operation and bringing science and society closer together.

Gender as a specific aspect of research policy is included in the “Science in Society” programme which is part of “Capacities”.

Aspects addressed by the first calls within this programme refer to: Research Infrastructures (budget: €1.6 billion, deadline 2 May 2007), Research for the benefit of SMEs – including Research for SMEs (deadline: 4 September 2007, budget: €1 billion), Research for SME associations (deadlines: 1 June and 28 November 2007, budget: €0.1 billion) and

Coordination and Support Actions (deadline: 10 May 2007, budget: €0.02 billion) –, Regions of Knowledge (deadline: 24 April 2007, budget: €0.1 billion), Science in Society (budget: €0.22 billion, deadline: 23 May 2007) and Activities of International Cooperation (deadline: 2 May 2007, budget: €0.17 billion).

Euratom

The call on Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection has a budget of €0.48 billion. The deadline is 2 May 2007.

The members’ only area of the EPWS website includes an overview of all the FP7 calls released up to now.

Please refer to every particular call for accuracy on budget and deadline.

Gender in FP7

Considering the inclusion of the gender dimension in projects to be proposed under FP7, applicants have to refer to and rely on the specific wording of every call and its demands. Some calls have gender as a compulsory dimension for applications while others do not insist on it.

However, particular attention to the gender dimension in research is given in the “Science in Society” area within the specific programme “Capacities”, where one theme is “Gender research and the role of women in research”. The principles of gender mainstreaming in FP7 touch upon the following issues:

- ✓ Gender dimension of research content will be addressed in the work programmes and a section relating to gender has been included in the proposal template.
- ✓ The aim is to in the medium term achieve at least 40 % of members of each sex in each evaluation expert group and committee.
- ✓ During negotiation, Gender Actions can be foreseen for larger projects and can be reimbursed as part of the project. They can include establishment of networks, management courses, training or mentoring activities, measures to facilitate work/life balance, outreach activities (schools,

universities) and collaboration with industries.

- ✓ In the reporting, attention will be paid to workforce statistics and gender actions.

Official launch of FP7 by EU German Presidency

On 15-16 January 2007, the German EU Presidency officially launched FP7.

High-ranking officials attended the event in Bonn, among which: Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik, Fotis C. Kafatos, Chair of the European Research Council and José Manuel Silva Rodríguez, Director General of the European Commission's DG Research.

On this occasion, a working group more specifically dealt with women and science. In this context, a report on "Successful Women Scientists in EU Research" was released. The report can be ordered free of charge at www.eubuero.de/fif

Independent experts wanted for FP7

As already mentioned in the EPWS Newsletter December 2006, the European Commission is establishing a database of prospective independent experts to assist the Commission's services in connection with the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

On 14 December 2006, the Commission published two calls for proposals, inviting organisations and individuals to propose prospective independent experts

– to assist in the evaluation of proposals in line with the various scientific, technological and socioeconomic aims of FP7. Evaluation work includes making recommendations on ways to gear research towards optimum achievement of the aims of the specific programme concerned;

– to assist in the monitoring of projects selected and funded by the Community, including, where necessary and as appropriate, the monitoring of projects funded by the Community under previous research framework programmes;

– for other purposes where specific expertise might be required (e.g. monitoring of the implementation, evaluation and assessment of impacts of RTD programmes and policies).

The Call for individuals:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c_305/c_30520061214en00520053.pdf

The Call for organisations:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c_305/c_30520061214en00540055.pdf

For further information on the appointments:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who_en.html#appointment

EPWS strongly encourages qualified individual women scientists to apply as independent experts. It is possible to apply directly and at *your own* initiative; no invitation is needed. The Platform also strongly encourages organisations to include qualified women scientists on their lists so that the expertise of women scientists may enter into the FP7 evaluation, monitoring and assessment process.

Since the expert data base for FP6 contained around 55.000 entries, appointment by the European Commission often also relies on national recommendations. EPWS, therefore, encourages women scientists and gender experts to contact their respective National Contact Points to find out more about expert evaluation processes.

Bulgaria and Romania join the EU

Since 1 January 2007, the European Union has two new Member States, Bulgaria and Romania, bringing the current EU countries to 27.

EPWS gives a warm welcome to the Bulgarian and Romanian scientific community and is looking forward to further strengthen collaboration with women scientists and gender researchers there.

German Presidency's Priorities in Research Policy

On 1 January 2007, Germany took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The German Presidency has announced that intellectual property rights and debating the long-term development of the EU's research budget will be its R&D priorities. Another priority is the developing of the European Research Area (ERA).

In addition, the German Presidency will start the European Research Council (ERC) and promote large-scale Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) between member states.

Review of European Research Area foreseen

On 15 January 2007, Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik announced his intention to launch a review of how the EU's internal science and research market is operating after seven years of building the European Research Area (ERA).

Potočnik intends to verify how easy it is for researchers to move between countries and organisations, have their qualifications recognised and find new opportunities in the public- and private-research structures. Potočnik also intends to present new ideas to strengthen the ERA.

In March 2007, the Commission is expected to publish a Communication, "New horizons and further steps for the ERA", and submit it to a large public and political debate. This could eventually lead to a second Communication in 2008 formulating concrete proposal for actions.

Source: EurActiv

European Institute for Gender Equality to be set up in Lithuania

On 20 December 2006, the EU Council of Ministers and the Parliament decided on the

establishment of the European Institute for Gender Equality, based in Vilnius (Lithuania). The Institute will be operational by 2008, working to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality and the fight against discrimination based on sex, and to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.

It will have a staff of 15 persons in the beginning and some 30 by 2013, with an annual budget of approximately €7.5 million (proposed budget for the period 2007-2013: €52.5 million).

Royal Society and Académie des Sciences Microsoft European Science Award 2007

This prestigious international award, sponsored by Microsoft Research, is designed to recognise and reward scientists working in Europe, who have made a major contribution to the advancement of science through the use of computational methods.

The 2007 award is open to any researcher who has made a significant contribution at the intersection of computing and the physical sciences, including mathematics and engineering. The prize will comprise a trophy and a monetary amount of €250,000, of which €7,500 will constitute prize money with the rest earmarked for further research.

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 21 February 2007.

For full details of the award and the on-line nomination forms, visit:

www.royalsoc.ac.uk/microsoft

For further questions about the award or the nomination process please contact Madeleine Bell at awards@royalsoc.ac.uk.

Call for Blaise Pascal high level scholarships

The French Government and the Ile-de-France Region are establishing new International Research Chairs to accommodate highly qualified, internationally acclaimed, foreign

research scientists in exact or applied sciences, natural, health and ageing sciences, environmental sciences, new technologies, human and social sciences.

Each Chair allows the foreign scientist to be hosted for 12 full months, possibly spread over two years, in one or more well-known Higher Learning or Research Institutions in Paris/Ile-de-France that are focused on a particular scientific project and are able to provide the

suitable environment, equipment and means required.

Deadline for applications: 25 April 2007.

For further details on application documents and procedure: <http://www.chaires-blaise-pascal.org/uk/appel.htm>

As very few women benefited from these chairs in the past year, they are now specifically encouraged to apply.

Upcoming events

1. International *Women in Science* Conference "The Way Forward", Heidelberg (Germany), 9-11 May 2007
<http://www.set-routes.org/conference/index.html>
2. International Colloquium on Women in Engineering and Technology *Global Efforts for Local Empowerment*, Tunis (Tunisia), 6-8 June 2007
www.wfeo.org
3. *3rd European Research & Innovation Exhibition*, Paris (France), 7-9 June 2007
<http://www.european-research-exhibition.com/>
4. *Wonbit: women on biotechnologies, scientific and feminist approaches*, Rome (Italy), 21-23 June 2007
www.wonbit.net
5. *5th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education*, Berlin (Germany), 28-31 August 2007
<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/eq-berlin2007/>
6. *European Women in Mathematics*, Cambridge (UK), 3-6 September 2007
<http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewm/>

Published by: EPWS
Rue d'Arlon 38, B-1000 Brussels
www.epws.org

Editorial staff: Adelina Humnic-Orzu, Maren Jochimsen
Contact: adelina.humnic@epws.org

References

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

Membership Application Form

Please fill in this form in **CAPITAL LETTERS** and **READ** all necessary documents on <http://www.epws.org>

Name of Association:
Name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) authorised to represent:
1.
2.
Address:
Telephone Number/ Fax Number:
E-mail:
Website:
Research Area(s) Covered:
Membership Type Requested
Full Member
Associate Member
Individual Supporting Member
Professor
Researcher (please specify)
Other (please specify)
Supporting Organisation
Choice of Standing Committee
Monitoring the Policy Debate
Gender Dimension in Science
Promotion of Women Scientists
Information and Public Relations
Structural Reinforcement
Is your organisation/are you a member of any other network(s)?
I accept EPWS' Terms and Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> (online at www.epws.org)
Date, Place, Signature :

Your personal data are for EPWS internal use only and will not be transmitted to third parties.