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**Message from the President**

Dear Readers,



After the successful Network Event of the European Platform of Women Scientists last October 2006, we are now approaching our next main event: our First General Assembly.

On 27 and 28 April 2007, we again hope to welcome many representatives of networks of women scientists and networks promoting women scientists from different countries and scientific fields in Brussels.

Since there seems to have been some misconception concerning the meaning of the term “science” in the past, I would like to stress that “science” in the context of EPWS refers to the whole spectrum of disciplines, covering the

humanities and social sciences as well as natural and life sciences.

The registration for EPWS membership is open now, and we encourage all networks of women scientists as well as associations or individuals promoting women in science and /or gender issues to apply for membership. Apply before the end of March 2007 and attend the Platform's First General Assembly! Do not hesitate to ask our Project Manager Networking, Marianne Schwarz da Silva, if you have any questions concerning the membership type and the possibilities of your participation in the aims and activities of the Platform.

What does the European Platform of Women Scientists offer?

**EPWS**

- offers a network database already comprising about 160 networks all over Europe and beyond,

- takes part in the research policy debate at EU level and gives women scientists a voice in Europe,
- monitors the EU research policy and disseminates the information,
- has established an office in Brussels with competent colleagues and contacts to EU institutions,
- helps in finding your way to EU research programmes and partners for cooperation.

European research policy is of increasing importance because of the large financial funds administered and the influence on the shaping of national research policies – an influence further strengthened by the establishment of the European Research Council. EPWS aims to improve the framework conditions for women scientists, to ensure gender awareness and to enhance the successful participation of women scientists in European research programmes.

Our vision of science is the full integration of women at all levels of scientific careers. Women are not the problem – they are part of the solution!

To be better informed about your expectations and concerns we need your input. Thus, we hope for your contributions and comments to our strategy papers that will be presented at our First General Assembly in April 2007 and the active participation of EPWS members in our Standing Committees.

Our First General Assembly will be a very important step towards founding a democratic, self sustaining organisation, connecting networks of women scientists and representing women scientists all over Europe.

See you in Brussels!

Adelheid Ehmke  
EPWS President

## 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 30 March 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](mailto: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.

## EPWS FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Brussels

*Friday, 27 April 2007, 12:00-18:30*  
General Assembly  
followed by  
evening programme

*Saturday, 28 April 2007, 9:00-12:00*  
Standing Committee Meetings

## Join EPWS! – Messages from the EPWS Board of Administration

**Prof. Claudine Hermann**, *Physicist, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris (France) – Vice President of “Femmes et Sciences”:*

Having been involved for France at the European level in the Women and Science issue since 1998, I participated to the preliminary actions that led to the creation of EPWS. Women scientists are working in an international environment, but are also facing quite similar issues in the different EU countries, whatever the discipline. Getting to personally know colleagues from different countries and disciplines is not only a pleasure, but a personal enrichment. However, networking is important for women scientists not only from an intellectual point of view, but as an essential tool for claiming a fair treatment in their career.

**Dr. Liisa Husu**, *Sociologist, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki (Finland):*

The problems women encounter in scientific careers are persistent and global. EPWS offers a unique new opportunity to join forces of women scientists across Europe and across disciplines, to compare notes, discuss strategies and influence European research policy. Join the European Platform of Women Scientists! Networking of women scientists and networking with other networks can be a powerful tool for change towards gender equality. And it is also fun!

**Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron**, *Electrical Engineer, Tel Aviv University (Israel):*

Having the Secretariat located in Brussels with its excellent staff, and being very much involved with the European Commission, I'd like to see the EPWS evolving also into the gate of women scientists to the framework programmes. It can be used to help women scientists in receiving appropriate information about the programmes, finding partners, interest representation, etc. I encourage every woman scientist to join EPWS so she can influence research policy and, at the same time, leverage her involvement in the framework programmes.

**Dr. Isabelle Schön**, *Biologist, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, Brussels (Belgium) – President of “Belgian Women in Science (BeWiSe)”:*

Already during my studies, I had been interested in the topic “women in science”. The lack of female professors at German universities was obvious, even in Biology with which a lot of undergraduates start. As soon as I became a Postdoc, I noticed that there were hardly any women around me and I wondered where most of my female colleagues had gone? However, the problems of women scientists are not a national problem. They are very similar throughout Europe. Furthermore, the voice of women scientists will only be heard if all of us “shout” together. This is the main reason why I got involved with EPWS.

**Dr. Flavia Zucco**, *Biologist, Institute of Neurobiology and Molecular Medicine, Rome (Italy) - President of “Donne e Scienza”:*

I was involved in the Platform since the Commission set up a Board for studying its feasibility and characteristics. I have been always convinced that the promotion of women in science would benefit from a strong cooperation among the different networks, by sharing experiences, learning from others and planning together the future. (...) I would like to see the Platform as a place where women are helping themselves in contributing to science from the practical and theoretical point of view. It means that we should work as positive models and also build a vision of science more acceptable for women as scientists and for society at large.

## EC Communication on Scientific Information

In February 2007 the European Commission adopted a Communication on “Scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation”.

This document is part of a larger debate at EU level on dissemination and access strategies (e.g. Open Access), publishing business models (e.g. reader-pay, author-pay), and the relation between scientific publication and research excellence.

The full text of the Communication is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document\\_library/pdf\\_06/communication-022007\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/communication-022007_en.pdf)

## FP7 Calls – Guides for Applicants available for Marie Curie Actions

Guidelines for Applicants for Marie Curie Actions, under the FP7 specific programme “People”, are now available.

The Guideline for Applicants regarding the Marie Curie Awards (AWARDS) – call FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-2-AWARDS – can be found here:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=25](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=25)

The Guideline for Applicants regarding the Marie Curie Coordination and Support Action (SUPPORT) – call FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-1-1-NIGHT – can be found at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.PeopleDetailsCallPage&call\\_id=24](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.PeopleDetailsCallPage&call_id=24)

## Integrating Ethics in EU Research

*By Mary Fitzgerald, DG Research, European Commission*

### Background:

Ethics is about telling the truth and it is central to scientific integrity. Through ethics review,

the public's concerns relating to science are represented and addressed. In FP7 the Commission will focus on integrating ethics into research. The ethics review will be carried out on the proposal submitted; no additional information will be requested.

### 10 Helpful Hints:

1. Reflect on ethics in each work package, don't leave it until the last minute.
2. Justify the use of personal data, research animals, human tissue.
3. Consider human dignity, privacy, social and cultural impact of research.
4. Convincing evidence of the need to involve human beings / children.
5. Defend the benefit / burden balance of each experiment.
6. Consider alternative approaches.
7. Explain how incidental findings will be handled.
8. What if something goes wrong – insurance cover adequate, informed consent consistent?
9. Ensure that participating developing countries share in the benefits.
10. Identify and contact the ethics expert in your organisation(s) now.

### Always remember:

Ethics enhances research. It's a great investment.

The fine reputation of your organisation or one's publications and track record does not exempt a proposal from addressing research ethics.

**Contacts:** Ethics Review Team, Directorate General for Research, European Commission – Peteris Zilgalvis, Mary Fitzgerald, Francois Hirsch, Eleonore Pauwels (e-mail: *first name.family name@ec.europa.eu*)

## ERC published first call for proposals and Guide for Applicants

In February, the European Research Council (ERC) published the first call for proposals aiming at the next generation of top research leaders and their most creative ideas, together

with the Guide for Applicants for the ERC Grant Schemes.

This first call includes the Starting Independent Researcher Grants or “ERC Starting Grants”, with a budget of € 300 Mio. The deadline is on 25 April 2007. These grants provide support to the independent careers of excellent researchers, independently of their nationality, located in or moving to the EU and associated countries, who are at the stage of establishing or consolidating their research team or programme.

The second type of ERC Grants, the Advanced Investigator Grants or “ERC Advanced Grants”, will only be available from the second half of 2007. These grants will have a budget of € 550 Mio. and will support excellent research projects led by established top research leaders, working in or moving to work in Europe, whatever their nationality.

The ERC's funding will increase substantially over the period 2007-2013. From 2008, annual calls (approx. € 1 billion per year) will be held for both ERC Starting and Advanced Grants.

Research proposals for ERC Starting Grant can cover any field of science and technology, including the social sciences and humanities, and need to be led by a single starting researcher who is working in or moving to work in Europe, regardless of her/his nationality, and may involve additional team members.

The Guide for Applicants provides practical information to potential applicants in preparing and submitting an application for an ERC grant. In addition, it provides a general overview of the ERC peer review evaluation process, the ERC grant agreement and the underlying principles for the management of ERC grants.

The ERC is a newly-created pan-European funding organisation, whose mandate is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-initiated frontier research across all fields of research, on the basis of scientific excellence. Its Launch Conference was held in Berlin on 27/28 February 2007.

For information on the calls and application procedure:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=nwe.v.NewsReader&news=82&lang=EN>

The Guide for Applicants:

[http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc\\_guide-for-applicants\\_stg.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc_guide-for-applicants_stg.pdf)

For more information on ERC:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>

### European social scientists set the agenda

Following agreement with EUROCORES Funding Agencies (EFAs), the European Science Foundation is launching a Call for Proposals under the EUROCORES Programme for European Collaborative Research Projects (ECRP) in the Social Sciences. An ECRP Protocol has been agreed by the EFAs enabling them to consider collaborative proposals from European research teams based on a Common Application Form, submitted by a common deadline and evaluated using a common reviewing process, while funding decisions are made at the national level in accordance with national rules.

ECRP is designed to advance high-quality responsive mode, researcher-led collaborative international research within all fields of social sciences. This year, funding agencies from 19 countries are participating in the scheme.

Deadline for submitting proposals is 27 April 2007.

Further information on application procedures and time frame:

[http://www.esf.org/esf\\_article.php?language=0&activity=7&domain=5&article=444&page=117](http://www.esf.org/esf_article.php?language=0&activity=7&domain=5&article=444&page=117)

### COST Open Call for Proposals to support Scientific and Technical Collaboration in Europe

COST invites proposals for Actions contributing to the scientific, economic, cultural or societal development of Europe. Proposals playing a precursor role for other European programmes and/or involving young groups' ideas are especially welcome.

Proposals should include researchers from a minimum of five COST member states and should network nationally funded research

activities. Their work plan should include no more than four targeted Working Groups and include activities such as meetings, short term scientific missions, work shops, conferences and outreach activities. On average financial support of some € 90.000 p.a. as grant for up to 4 years can be expected.

COST, an intergovernmental network, is one of the longest-running instruments supporting co-operation among scientists and researchers across Europe. COST now has 35 member countries and enables scientists to collaborate in a wide spectrum of activities in research and technology.

For further information regarding the call, submission, eligibility criteria, etc.:

<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=721>

### **L'ORÉAL National Fellowships**

L'ORÉAL, with the support of UNESCO National Commissions, offers National Fellowships to doctoral students to pursue scientific research in their home countries.

National Fellowships now exist in over 20 countries. However, it is foreseen to introduce them in over 50 countries before the end of 2008.

Since their creation in 2001, more than 200 doctoral students have received L'ORÉAL National Fellowships.

In 2007, new national programmes will award their first scholarships in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chili, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Morocco, Mexico, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

For more information on the fellowships:

[www.forwomeninscience.com](http://www.forwomeninscience.com)

### **Marie Heim-Vögtlin Subsidies**

The Swiss National Science Foundation issues Marie Heim-Vögtlin Subsidies in all scientific fields. These are intended primarily as a way for highly qualified female scientists with a degree or doctorate to resume their careers after interrupting or greatly reducing their research work, generally to raise a family.

The subsidies (half- to full-time) are designed to enable scientific work to be undertaken at a Swiss university or a corresponding research institution for a limited period (2 years with the possibility of an extension of max. another 24 month).

For further information:

[http://www.snf.ch/en/fop/awa/awa\\_wom.asp](http://www.snf.ch/en/fop/awa/awa_wom.asp)

### **Prize: Outstanding Research by Women in Marine Biological Sciences**

The Network of Excellence "Marine-Genomics-Europe" rewards outstanding scientific achievements in the field of marine biological research with emphasis on genetic/genomic processes. The two prizes will be given to one junior and one senior women scientists.

Together with a permanent token, each prize consists of €5,000 to be spent at the discretion of the recipient.

The prize will be based on nominations received from other scientists or from institutions throughout the world.

Deadline for nominations: 15 March 2007.

Further information:

<http://www.marine-genomics-europe.org/index2.php?rub=b&pid=49&aid=22>

### **A Woman President of Harvard**

On 11 February 2007, Drew Gilpin Faust was elected the new president of Harvard University (USA) and its first woman president.

An eminent historian, expert on the Civil War and the American South, and outstanding academic leader who has served since 2001 as the founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Drew G. Faust will become the twenty-eighth president of Harvard University, effective on 1 July 2007.

### **L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science 2007**

On 22 February, five prominent women scientists, one from each continent, received the 9<sup>th</sup> L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards for Women

in Science. The distinctions were presented at UNESCO Headquarters by Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Lindsay Owen Jones, Chairman of L'ORÉAL.

The laureates, all physicists or chemists, are: Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Professor of Organic Chemistry and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius (Laureate for Africa); Ligia Gargallo, Professor, Department of Physical Chemistry, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago (Laureate for Latin America); Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics,



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA (Laureate for North America); Prof. Margaret Brimble, Chair of Organic and Medicinal Chemistry, University of Auckland, New Zealand (Laureate for Asia-Pacific) and Tatiana Birshtein, Professor, Institute of Macromolecular Compounds, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia (Laureate for Europe).

The 2007 Laureates, who each received US\$100,000, were selected after deliberation by the L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards International Jury in the Material Sciences, presided by Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Nobel Prize in Physics, in the presence of Professor Christian de Duve, Nobel Prize in Medicine and Founding President of the Awards.

The L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards aim to recognize the contributions of outstanding women researchers to scientific progress and encourage the participation of women in scientific research. The laureates serve as role models for future generations, encouraging young women around the world to follow in their footsteps. To date, 47 women originating from 24 countries have received these distinctions.

For further information:

<http://www.loreal.com/en/ww/index.aspx?direct1=00008&direct2=00008%2f00001>

### Call for Papers: Women in Engineering and Technology Research

On 26-27 October 2007, the FP6-funded PROMETEA project will organise the Conference "Women in Engineering and Technology Research" in Paris (France).

The objective of the conference is to discuss gender issues in engineering and technology research careers and to bring new perspectives on engineering and technology research.

Scholars are invited to submit abstracts or posters to bring other perspectives and/or create a debate. Research through case studies, comparative methodology, pluridisciplinary approaches and new methodologies is highly appreciated. Young promising scholars are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts or posters.

Scholars wishing to present a 10-minute paper in one of the sessions are invited to submit a maximum 300-word abstract online.

Abstracts should be sent to the organisers by 30 April 2007.

For participation with posters, a short description should be submitted online through the form provided on the conference's website.

For further details and registration:

<http://www.prometea.info/conference2007>

### Call for Papers: EWM07

The association European Women in Mathematics (EWM) will organise the meeting "EWM07" in Cambridge (UK), on 3-6 September 2007.

Talks at EWM07 will cover a range of mathematical areas, with distinguished speakers.

The organisers invite interested scholars to submit proposals for posters, titles and abstracts for presentation in splinter groups sessions during the conference.

The contact person for submission of contributions, along with a title and abstract (at most 300 words) is Amanda Stagg at [ewm07@maths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ewm07@maths.cam.ac.uk).

Deadline for submission of titles and abstracts: 30 June 2007.

For further information: <http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewm/>

### Upcoming events

1. *The European Celebration of the L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards "For Women In Science"*, Brussels (Belgium), 27 March 2007  
<http://forwomeninscience.cabinetstewart.com/>
2. *EuroNanoForum 2007*, Duesseldorf (Germany), 19-21 June 2007  
[http://www.euronanoforum2007.eu./](http://www.euronanoforum2007.eu/)
3. *INWES Regional Symposium on Women Scientists and Engineers in New EU Countries and Eastern Europe, "Strategies for a Global Workforce"*, Wrocław (Poland), 2-4 July 2007  
<http://inwes.piwnet.pl/>
4. *International Conference "Women in Engineering and Technology Research"*, Paris (France), 26-27 October 2007  
<http://www.prometea.info/conference2007>

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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.

## EPWS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

<b>Name of Association:</b>
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Individual Supporting Member
Professor
Researcher (please specify)
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Supporting Organisation
<b>Choice of Standing Committee</b>
Monitoring the Policy Debate
Gender Dimension in Science
Promotion of Women Scientists
Information and Public Relations
Structural Reinforcement
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<b>I accept EPWS' Terms and Conditions</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>(online at <a href="http://www.epws.org">www.epws.org</a>)</b>
<b>Date, Place, Signature :</b>

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