



European Platform of Women Scientists NEWSLETTER, Issue 12, May-June 2007

SUMMARY

1. Editorial	1-2
2. Two additional members of the EPWS Board of Administration	2
3. News for EPWS members	2-3
4. News from EPWS members	3
5. Empowering women in engineering and technology – Global efforts for local Empowerment	4
6. Better work-life balance in the Commission's attention	4
7. Mid-Term Assessment of Science and Society Activities during FP6	4
8. How much do researchers earn in Europe?	5
9. The Rocard Report on Science Education	5
10. EC and EIB launch new instrument to finance research and innovation	5-6
11. Key Figures 2007 on Science, Technology and Innovation	6
12. Gender experts for the International Taskforce on Women and ICT	6
13. Call for applications for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award	6
14. Call for papers: International Conference on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Social Justice	7
15. Upcoming events	7

Editorial

Dear Readers,

This newsletter will start a new phase of visibility of networks of women scientists and networks promoting women scientists in Europe, devoting special attention to information for, from and about EPWS members.

The European Platform of Women Scientists welcomes Ana Maria Lobo, from Amonet (Portugal) and Dalia Šatkovskienė, BASNET (Lithuania) as new members of the EPWS Board of Administration. Elected by the General Assembly in Brussels on 27 April 2007, they will strengthen the geographical representation of the EPWS Board of Administration and enrich its discussions through their networking and disciplinary expertise. Ana Maria Lobo and Dalia Šatkovskienė will start their office at the next

EPWS Board of Administration Meeting beginning of July 2007.

This Newsletter also witnesses the opening of two new headings: "News for EPWS members" and "News from EPWS members".

In "News for EPWS members" the latest developments, additions and up-loads to the 'members only' area of the EPWS electronic platform, previously announced to members via news alert, will be summarised. Get the monthly changes at one glance!

Under the heading "News from EPWS members" you will find the latest information on and events organised by EPWS members. Get informed on what your fellow networks are up to and increase your own visibility by letting us know the information you would want to share by contacting EPWS Project Manager Information Adelina Huminic-Orzu at adelina.huminic@epws.org. Your information will reach more than 1,200 readers all over Europe and beyond.

For all those who did not take the step yet and join the Platform, please keep in mind that the

EPWS membership outreach is ongoing and the EPWS membership application process is open throughout the year. You will find the EPWS Membership Application Form at the end of this Newsletter. Visit our website or get in touch with EPWS Project Manager Networking-Membership Marianne Schwarz da Silva at marianne.dasilva@epws.org for more information or any related questions. We are looking forward to your applications.

Last but not least, the EPWS Secretariat will have a new member: As from July 2007, Pauleen Colligan will join the team as Project Manager Research Policy taking over the job from Irina Michalowicz.

Have a good summer!

Maren Jochimsen
EPWS Secretary General

Two additional members of the EPWS Board of Administration

Two new members of the Board of Administration were elected during the EPWS General Assembly on 27 April 2007. Ana Maria Lobo (Portugal) and Dalia Šatkovskienė (Lithuania) will officially start their functions at the beginning of July.

Ana Maria Lobo is Professor of Chemistry at the Faculty of Science and Technology at the New University of Lisbon. Her research domain lies in the area of Organic Chemistry, namely new methods for the synthesis of natural molecules of practical importance and biochemical mechanisms such as chemical carcinogenesis.

She is cofounder and first Director of the Bulletin of the Portuguese Chemical Society (1978 - 1981), and President of its Organic Chemistry Division (since 2005).

A founding member of AMONET – Portuguese Association of Women Scientists (www.amonet.org) in 2004, Ana Maria Lobo became its first President in 2005. She has since helped to raise the awareness on women scientists' issues, including empowerment in research decision-making.

Dalia Šatkovskienė, a physicist who graduated from the Department of Elementary Particles of the Moscow State University, is an internationally known specialist in the field of quantum mechanics of molecules. She has more than 150 scientific publications and is an author of several textbooks in theoretical physics.

Dalia Šatkovskienė published several articles on women in Physics in Lithuania, gave talks in mass media and lectures at various conferences. She represented the Lithuanian women scientists at the ENWISE conference held in Tallinn in 2004 and at the 2nd Women in Physics Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2005. She initiated and coordinates the FP6 project "Baltic States Network: Women in Sciences and High Technology", aiming at the implementation of a Women in Science strategy in the Baltic States.

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.

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.

News for EPWS members

Since the first EPWS General Assembly on 27 April 2007, members of the Board of Administration and the Secretariat have been

uploading information in the 'members only' area of the EPWS website.

1. Section 'Association' – Workgroup General Assembly: Minutes of the General Assembly, as well as supporting documents,
2. Section 'Standing Committees': Minutes of all the Standing Committees which held their meetings on the 28th of April 2007, as well as:
 - a. Standing Committee 'Promotion of Women Scientists': Excel sheet where best practices for the promotion of women scientists can be recorded
 - b. Standing Committee 'Monitoring the Policy Debate': debate on the European Commission's Green Paper on the European Research Area

c. Standing Committee 'Gender Dimension in Science': statement of the mission of the Standing Committee and bibliography on women in science

3. Forum: a debate was launched on a new name of the Standing Committee 'Structural Reinforcement',

4. FAQs: this section's purpose is to help members use the facilities in this area of the EPWS website,

5. Calendar: dozens of events at EU level throughout Europe, which bring about dozens of networking opportunities for the EPWS members.

Please inform us on your events and activities, so we can further promote them!

News from EPWS members

Femmes et Sciences, Femmes et Mathématiques and *Femmes Ingénieurs*, devised a quiz on women in science in France.

<http://savoirs.essonne.fr/sections/jeux/>

BeWiSe (Women and Science in Belgium) held their General Assembly in Brussels on 12 June 2007.

L'Oréal, in partnership with UNESCO, edits "AGORA", a newsletter online. The current issue addresses the topic "Increasing the Impact of Science on Public Policy", which explores the challenges of increasing the impact of science on public policy and what scientists can do to make it happen.

Agora welcomes further posts on this topic as well as your comments on current articles.

<http://www.agora.forwomeninscience.com/agora/>

The European Union Women Inventors & Innovators Network held the EUWIIN Awards 2007 in Berlin, on 14-16 June 2007.

A total of thirty five women inventors and innovators presented their entries to the 9-member judging panel chaired by Diane Morris, Vice-President of the International Alliance for Women.

EPWS Networking Manager, Marianne Schwarz da Silva, was a member of the jury.

For further information on the event and the winners and their inventions, please read:

http://www.euwiin.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=63&Itemid=59

Empowering women in engineering and technology – Global efforts for local empowerment

Claudine Hermann, EPWS Board of Administration member, reports on the International Colloquium “Empowering women in engineering and technology – Global efforts for local empowerment”, organised by the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) in Tunis, on 7-8 June 2007.

Over 400 participants, from Africa, Middle East, North and Latin America, Europe, China and India were present. Four member networks of EPWS were represented in the audience.

The colloquium was opened by W. Erdelen, assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO. One of the keynote papers, by Claudine Hermann, presented the numerous actions of the European Union, especially of DG Research, in favour of women scientists and engineers – including the European Platform of Women Scientists.

The event was concluded with the decision of WFEO to create a permanent committee on women engineers and to propose that a Declaration on women in science and engineering be approved at the next general meeting of WFEO in India, in November 2007.

Better work-life balance in the Commission’s attention

The European Commission adopted the Communication on “Promoting solidarity between the generations” on 10 May 2007.

The Communication examines how Europeans can achieve a better work-life balance. It also looks at how best to support families so they can have the number of children they desire.

To help Europeans achieve more balanced work and family life, the Communication highlights three areas where Member States, social partners and civil society, as well as the EU, can play an important role:

- ✓ Financial support to cope with the costs of raising a family;

- ✓ Quality care services, both for children and for the dependent elderly;
- ✓ Flexible working time, with appropriate work schedules and leave arrangements.

The Communication highlights that countries that favour family-friendly policies in areas such as equal access to employment, parental leave for men and women, equal pay, generally have higher birth rates and more women in work. They are also some of the best performing countries in terms of jobs and growth.

To read the Communication:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0244en01.pdf

Source: The European Commission’s Press Release (IP/07/643)

Mid-Term Assessment of Science and Society Activities during FP6

The final report of the “Mid-Term Assessment of Science and Society activities 2002-2006” was released by the European Commission in June 2007.

The Commission had charged a panel of experts to evaluate whether the activities implemented by EU indirect actions under the FP6 Specific Programme “Structuring the ERA” met their objectives and to develop recommendations for FP7.

At European level, the “Science and Society” initiative was undertaken under the 6th Framework Programme. Its main objectives were formulated in the Science and Society Action Plan from 2001, which led to a broad range of activities numbering about 150 projects, conferences and forums. The programme is organised into five thematic areas: (a) Science Education; (b) Scientific Advice and Governance; (c) Ethics; (d) Women and Science; (e) Science Communication.

Further details and the full text of this report can be found on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1080>

How much do researchers earn in Europe?

In May 2007, the European Commission released the report "Remunerations of Researchers in the Public and Private Commercial Sectors", which presents an overview of researchers' salaries in Europe.

The analysis reveals wide variations across countries, while about half of countries present an average net remuneration in the €20,000-€30,000 range. Many Eastern European countries offer lower remunerations, while the average researcher in Austria, Cyprus, Israel, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and The United Kingdom receives over €30,000. The average total yearly salary ranges from just over €9,800 in Bulgaria to almost €46,500 in Switzerland.

The survey, carried out online, considered a researcher as a person devoting at least 50% of their time to research activities. Almost 10,000 replies were collected from researchers at various stages of their careers, in the public and private commercial sectors across the EU-25 and Associated Countries. The data were validated, analysed and the results compared to two different groups: other European professions, and researchers in Australia, China, India, Japan and the United States.

The difference between the remuneration of a female researcher and a male researcher is significant in most European countries. The difference is particularly marked (males researchers earn over 35% more than female researchers) in Estonia, Czech Republic, Israel and Portugal, while it is considerably less (male earn below 15% more) in Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Malta and Norway.

For more details of this report, please read: http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/pdf/final_report.pdf

The Rocard Report on Science Education

In May 2007, the European Commission published the Report "Science Education

NOW: A Renewed Pedagogy for the Future of Europe".

Following an initiative of Michel Rocard (former French Prime Minister and MEP), the European Commission has tasked a group of experts to examine on-going initiatives in science education and to identify solutions that could change young people's interest in science studies.

Since the origins of the declining interest among young people for science studies are found largely in the way science is taught in schools, this was the main focus of the expert group.

One of the main findings of this report is that a reversal of school science-teaching pedagogy from mainly deductive to inquiry-based methods provides the means to increase interest in science.

For the full text of the report: http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/report-rocard-on-science-education_en.pdf

EC and EIB launch new instrument to finance research and innovation

The European Commission (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a cooperation agreement on 5 June 2007, which establishes the new risk-sharing finance facility (RSFF) to support research and innovation in Europe.

This new instrument will help to make more financing available for promoters of research and innovation projects, which often face more difficulties than traditional business sectors in accessing finance, due to the relatively high levels of uncertainty and risk inherent to their activity.

The RSFF, part of the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) and EIB's programme for Research & Innovation, will partially cover the financial risks assumed by the EIB when financing this type of activity. The contribution of €1 billion each from FP7 and the EIB will therefore unlock billions of additional financing in this area.

For further information please read:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&lg=en&year=2007&na=na-050607>

Key Figures 2007 on Science, Technology and Innovation

The European Commission presented a new publication on Europe's position in research and innovation, "Key Figures 2007 on Science, Technology and Innovation" on 11 June 2007.

"Key Figures 2007" presents data and statistics on science, technology and innovation up to 2005.

The publication shows that R&D intensity (R&D expenditure as % of GDP) in Europe has stagnated since the mid-nineties, while major competitors such as Japan, China or South Korea have been able to increase substantially their R&D effort. In particular, the low level of business R&D in the EU remains worrying. The figures show that differences in the industrial structure of the EU, compared to countries such as the US, are the main cause for this low level of business R&D, with the EU having a smaller high-tech industrial sector, which usually has much higher levels of R&D spending.

For the full text of the "Key Figures 2007":

http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/kf_2007_prepub_en.pdf

Gender experts for the International Taskforce on Women and ICT

In support of the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3), the International Taskforce on Women and ICT develops a web-based database of gender experts within a broad range of technical fields relating to the three GK3 theme areas presented below.

The purpose of the database is to allow panel organisers and moderators to identify participants and speakers for their GK3 events. A diversity of perspectives and voices from NGOs, academia, grassroots, governments, business, media and international

organisations will be represented as a database of experts representing gender advocates, gender experts and women leaders who are able to represent diverse economies, cultures, practice and perspectives in ICT for development.

Experts in any of the following gender and ICT-related areas:

- ✓ Formal and non-formal education,
- ✓ Employment and workforce issues,
- ✓ ICTs for development: including networking and communication; health; agriculture; women's small, medium and micro enterprises; ICTs supporting women's human rights, ICT policy etc.

Gender experts are invited to register in the International Taskforce Expert Database at <http://taskforce.wigsat.org>

The Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) will take place in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 11-13 December 2007. However, the International Taskforce intends to continue this database as an ongoing international resource after the GK3 Conference.

Call for applications for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers grants to top-rank junior researchers from all disciplines who want to set up their own junior research groups at research establishments in Germany. This includes German academics working abroad.

Winners of the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award will be granted funding up to 1.65 million EUR during the period of 2008 to 2013 to conduct the approved research project.

The programme addresses junior scientists who completed their doctorates less than six years ago.

Details of the application procedure for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award can be found on the website

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/kova.htm>.

Call for papers: International Conference on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Social Justice

The Nordic Baltic Network for Gender Responsive Budgeting organises an international conference on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Social Justice at the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius (Lithuania), on 10-11 January 2008.

Papers on all aspects of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) are welcome, in particular papers relating gender responsive budgeting to social justice, and papers addressing issues on

- ✓ GRB and welfare benefits, social insurance and old age pensions,
- ✓ GRB and tax policies,
- ✓ GRB and the labour market

Deadline: 15 October 2007.

For further information:

www.oekonomi.uio.no/grb

Upcoming events

1. *Symposium on Gender, Learning and IT*, Helsingborg (Sweden), 23-25 August 2007
<http://www.ll.lu.se/natverk/glit/index.htm>
2. *Excellence in Research. Stems from People*, Turku (Finland), 27-28 August 2007
<http://www.nordforsk.org/ennyhet.cfm?id=622>
3. *5th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education*, Berlin (Germany), 28-31 August 2007
<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/eq-berlin2007/>
EPWS Input by Adelheid Ehmke and Maren Jochimsen
4. *Women, Power and the Media*, Birmingham (UK), 15-16 September 2007
<http://www.aston.ac.uk/lss/whatsnew/womenpowerandthemedial/>
5. *The European Union Contest for Young Scientists*, Valencia (Spain), 14-19 September 2007
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index2.htm>

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 (fee for 2008)¹
Full Member (120 €)
Associate Member (100€)
Individual Supporting Member
Professor (30€)
Researcher (30€) (please specify)
Student (no fee) (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.

¹ **NB: There are no membership fees for 2007**