

EPWS General Assembly and Conference 2010

Women in Present and Future European Research

Royal Belgian Museum of Natural Sciences
Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels

Brussels, 10-11 June 2010

"We will know that ERA is a shared responsibility [between science, policy and society] in 2030 when we see...half of all scientists and research policy makers, across all disciplines and at all levels of the Science system, are women". From Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance, A Strategic View of the European Research Area (ERA), First Report of European Research Area Board, 2009, p. 18.

For the development of a knowledge-based society, Europe needs leading-edge science and scientists and European research needs to reach all its potential contributors. This is especially important with regard to women scientists - given the substantial gender imbalance in science, where women represent more than half of the students' population, but hold on average only 18% of senior academic positions (*She Figures 2009*). A number of recent and current European projects supported by DG Research under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) are tackling the issue of gender balance in science, starting from the point of view that a better balance between men and women will only be achieved through a structural change inside science and its institutions.

Encouraging girls into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is a concern all over Europe, in connection with both an increasing need for a highly-skilled labour force and the low proportion of young women who are opting for STEM courses. Several members of EPWS are involved in practical actions to encourage young people, particularly girls, to follow STEM careers. This conference will be an opportunity to present news about ventures across Europe and to share best practice.

The conference aims to report on recent and current projects from across Europe to improve the gender balance in science. It will be a lively market place of networks, ideas, and partnerships. Participants will have the opportunity to present their work both through participating in discussion sessions and/or through a poster exhibition highlighting their activities related to the Conference topics. For more information and registration see www.epws.org.

Programme

Thursday, 10 June 2010	Royal Belgian Museum of Natural Sciences Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels
13:00 – 14.00	Registration
14.00	Welcome and Opening Address Brigitte Mühlenbruch President European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS

14.15	Camille Pisani Director of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (to be confirmed - tbc)	
14.20	First Session chaired by EPWS President Brigitte Mühlenbruch Keynote Lecture Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (tbc)	
14.45	Presentation of recent and current European projects: Serenella Martini Department for Equal Opportunities-DPO, Rome, Italy: <i>Implementation of the policies on gender equality and improvement of the presence and the role of women in scientific careers starting with the project PRAGES (Practising Gender Equality in Science)</i> Giovanna Declich ASDO Association, Scientific partner of the project PRAGES: <i>PRAGES: suggestions for academic and research institutions resulting from current practice</i> Elizabeth Pollitzer PORTIA Ltd, UK: <i>genSET (Gender in Science): Building Institutional Capacity for Action on Gender Dimension in Science</i>	
15.45	Coffee break and poster session	
16.15	EPWS General Assembly	Networking Meetings
18:15	Group Discussions Policy Debate: (Dalia Satkovskiene) Fundraising: (Isa Schön) Other topics: (Claudine Hermann)	
19.00	End of formal activities for the day Informal dinner for participants (at their own expense)	
Friday, 11 June 2010	Royal Belgian Museum of Natural Sciences Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels	
9.00	Second session chaired by EPWS Treasurer Isa Schön	

	<p>Women scientists empowerment and changing the institutions, Presentation of current EU projects related to Women and Science Coordinator: Dora Groo, EPWS Board of Administration member</p> <p>André Béraud, ECEPIE, France: <i>HELENA (Higher Education Leading to Engineering and Scientific Careers)</i></p> <p>Dora Groo, Association of Hungarian Women in Science: <i>GENDERA (Changing the gender balance in research organisations)</i> and <i>UNICAFE (University Career of Female Scientists at Life Sciences versus Technical Universities)</i></p> <p>Nicole Grobert (University of Oxford), UK: <i>The DIVERSITY project (Improving the gender diversity management in materials research institutions)</i></p> <p>Jenni Dyer, IOP (Institute of Physics), UK: <i>The Juno project: Addressing the under-representation of women in university physics and encouraging better practice for both women and men).</i></p> <p>Randi Wallmichrath, Germany: Contact Point Women into EU Research (Kontaktstelle Frauen in die EU-Forschung FiF im EU-Büro des BMBF) <i>Women into EU Research! Activities of the Contact Point FiF</i></p>
10:00	Coffee break and Networking
10.30	<p>Encouraging girls into SET Coordinator: Ann Marks, EPWS Board of Administration member</p> <p>Presentation of projects results: Carole Paleco, BeWise, Belgium: <i>GAPP (Gender awareness participation process)</i></p> <p>Presentation of actions of Amonet, Portugal: Ana Lobo, and of femmes et mathématiques (Women and mathematics), Femmes Ingénieurs (Women Engineers) and Femmes & Sciences (Women and Science), France: Christine Charretton</p> <p>Presentation of the initiatives of IOP, UK: Ann Marks</p>
11.30	<p>Third Session chaired by EPWS President Brigitte Mühlenbruch</p> <p>Conclusion and debate</p>
12.00	Conference closes