

New Perspectives for Women Scientists Careers in Europe

**EPWS Conference at the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research,
11 June 2014**

The 2014 yearly conference of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) was attended by over 80 delegates, from 17 EU countries, Armenia and the USA, representing numerous organisations working to overcome the issues for women in science today.

The conference had been organised by Claudine Hermann, the Vice-President of the EPWS, and Yvonne Pourrat, of the French EPWS member association ECEPIE and coordinator of GenderTime EU project.

The programme began with a message from the French Minister of Higher Education and Research, who welcomed the delegates warmly.

Yvonne Pourrat chaired the morning session, which focused on **'Gender in the new European Framework Programme Horizon 2020'**: it began with a video message from Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, a Member of the European Parliament and President of the European Union of Women, who thanked the EPWS for their important role, emphasising there is still a lot of work to be done, but she will do everything she can as a member of the EU parliament to further this work.

A valuable up-date of how the preoccupation with gender is present in Horizon 2020 was done by Viviane Willis-Mazzichi, the Head of Sector "Gender", European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, and Nadine Heller-Genath, of FiF Bonn, Germany, provided interesting information on the experience of a National Contact Point on Women in research.

Then a round table presented five current EU funded projects dealing with gender equality in scientific careers: INTEGER, EGERA, GenderTIME, GENOVATE and STAGES. The presentations were focused on the results and impacts of each project.

The afternoon session dealt with **'Up-skilling Women Scientists Careers - European and French perspectives'**. The Keynote speech of Professor Nicky Le Feuvre, from University of Lausanne, gave a personal view of modern sexism. Two round tables, one on Human Resources Management in R&D in both the private sector and in public research institutions and a second on mentoring experiences in private and public organisations in Europe and in France, completed the programme.

The afternoon was drawn to a conclusion by André Béraud, of ECEPIE, who was impressed by the positive messages from the talks which raise hopes for the future. However he did caution that, although we now understand the problems more clearly, the next step is the implementation and the evaluation of implemented programs.

Claudine Hermann, Yvonne Pourrat and Ann Marks

All Conference documents on www.epws.org
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