

GENDER ACTION

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TIME TO PUSH GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The H2020 project GENDERACTION calls for continued action for gender equality at the EU and Member State level to achieve more ambitious goals in the future.

Brussels, 12 April 2019 – The conference *The Future of Gender Equality in European Research and Innovation* hosted by the Horizon 2020 GENDERACTION project on 9 April in Brussels brought together 70 policy makers, gender experts, practitioners and scholars to discuss new developments and priorities for the future of gender equality in European research and innovation.

The main messages of the conference are the need to adopt **an intersectional approach to gender equality, focus on the Business Enterprise Sector, the need to integrate sex and gender analysis in the development of Artificial Intelligence, respond seriously on the issue of violence on women and sexual harassment and the need to support Social Sciences and Humanities and gender oriented research specifically.**

It's high time to have dedicated gender specific research funding to tackle these challenges. We need a mission and a budget allocated. At the EU level, there have been plans to support specific gender research since FP6 but unfortunately it has never materialized", said Marcela Linková, Chair of ERAC Standing Working Group on Gender in Research and Innovation and the coordinator of GENDERACTION project.

The event was opened by Jean-David Malo, Director of Open Innovation and Open Science Directorate B, DG RTD, European Commission. In his opening remarks, he cautioned that despite very intensive work for gender equality, improvements continue to be small. He also stated that there is a strategically unique opportunity now at the EU level, with the relaunch of the European Research Area in 2020.

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In her keynote speech, Mieke Verloo, Professor of Comparative Politics and Inequalities at Radboud University, focused on three topics: **intersectionality**, the dynamic nature of gender equality and embeddedness of gender equality in fast changing Europe. “*Gender equality needs democracy and democracy needs gender equality,*” stressed Professor Verloo.

The **Bussines Enterprise Sector** should address the organizational culture and structures to promote gender equality with greater commitment. Support of women entrepreneurs and more venture capital allocated for women start up companies are appropriate tools as well.

The panel on gender in **Artificial Intelligence** agreed that it was vital to focus on what people will do with Artificial Intelligence in their everyday life. Professor Gina Neff from the Oxford Internet Institute addressed the new kinds of organizational reconfigurations AI is producing in a datafied society and how AI is remaking what we understand as power, authority and voice.

Violence on women including sexual harassment is widely underestimated in the EU research and innovation system, and the personal costs are huge and unacceptable. There must be rules for all research institutions to institutionalize measures and procedures so that researchers, especially early-career researchers in dependent positions, are safe.

“There is lack of knowledge, lack of interest and lack of understanding of experiences of violence in academia. It’s time to step up and address this issue in a more structural fashion, not as a problem of individuals,” emphasised Fredrik Bondestam, Director of Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research in the closing panel.

Prior to the conference GENDERACTION launched a **Policy Brief on the Future of Gender Equality in European Research and Innovation**, outlining priority areas for the upcoming period after 2020.

About GENDERACTION: Funded by Horizon 2020, we are a policy community of national representatives appointed by EU Member States and Associated Countries, set up to advance the implementation of the gender priority in the European Research Area. We are doing this through networking, providing strategic policy advice, sharing good practices, exchanging on various policy solutions, and providing trainings to relevant stakeholders.

Web site of the event: <http://genderaction.eu/future4genderinresearch/>

Policy brief on the Future of gender equality in European research and innovation: http://genderaction.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GENDERACTION_PolicyBrief11_Future-of-GE-in-European-RI.pdf

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Marcela Linková, opening



Věra Jourová, video message



Jean-David Malo

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Mike Verloo



closing panel



conference plenum

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