



**GENDER
ACTION**



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DEEPENING EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY: TIME TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING!

A joint conference of Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU and European project GENDERACTION brought together representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States, research funders, ERA stakeholders and experts to reflect on the recent advances in gender equality. A draft of the Ljubljana Declaration on Gender Equality in Research was introduced with priorities for the forthcoming presidencies.

The conference Deepening the ERA Through Gender Equality organised by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Horizon 2020 project GENDERACTION took place online on 8-9 July 2021. The two-day event brought together top representatives of European and Member States authorities responsible for research policies as well as participants from more than 26 European countries.

The cooperation of all stakeholder is crucial for further advancement of gender equality. European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth **Mariya Gabriel** commented in her speech the measures adopted to advance this in the New European Research Area:

“We work together with Member States, universities, research organisations and funders to develop and implement inclusive Gender equality plans. They are proven to be one of the most transformative tools to achieve long-term sustainable advancement toward gender equality in research.”

A new European framework program for research Horizon Europe has gender equality plans as a new eligibility criterion, which has led to a fundamental change in the motivation to adopt gender equality measures in many countries.

Marcela Linková, the GENDERACTION project coordinator and the chair of ERAC Standing Working Group for Gender in Research and Innovation, added:

“We must support girls and women to go to research and innovation because recent examples abundantly show that when women enter, we get results that are responsive to women’s needs, bodies and health, and this helps to close the gender data gap and address the gender dimension in research. Representation does shape substance.”



To support these efforts at EU Member States level, the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU drafted the **Ljubljana Declaration on Gender Equality in Research and Innovation**. The document refers to shared European values and calls on Member States and other European countries to fully acknowledge gender mainstreaming as a horizontal principle and jointly work on the improvement in six priority areas of gender equality, which include, for example, gender based violence, monitoring and evaluation of adopted measures or support of gender equality plans.

The Ljubljana Declaration will be submitted to the EU ministers of research on 29 September in Brussels, asking them to express their final support, according to Slovenia's Science and Education Minister, Simona Kustec, which opened the conference on Thursday July 8.

Conference website: deepeningera.eu

Recording of the event: [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#).



Commissioner Mariya Gabriel



Marcela Linková, ERAC SWGGRI chair and GENDERACTION coordinator



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.



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