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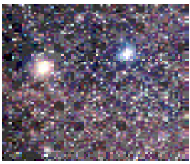
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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services) (D.1.1.)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission (D.7.2.))	



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Working Group
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News bulletin n° 1

PRA.G.E.S.

PRActising Gender Equality in Science

Gender equality in the European scientific research: from principles to practices

The world of the European scientific research is characterized by a significant gender gap. Girls constitute half of the entire University population, but only 15% of women scientists hold relevant academic positions. It deals with a situation of disparity that the European Commission considers as an element of weakness of the European research and labour market in a world economy which is deeply dependent on knowledge.

For about ten years, in conjunction with the fifth Framework Programme for scientific and technological research, the Commission has developed a specific policy to promote a balanced presence of the two genders in scientific activities, having registered also an increase of studies, conferences and meetings of exchange and coordination among different

universities, institutes and public administrations.

An important tool which has been applied to promote the role of women in research is represented by the action plan "Science in society" of 2001 that has set up four main guidelines:

- the constitution of an European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS);
 - the monitoring of progresses towards gender equality in science;
 - the mobilization of women scientists working in the private sector;
 - the promotion of gender equality in an enlarged Europe.
- The commitment of the previous years has been again confirmed in the seventh Framework Programme 2007-2013 which has further encouraged the actors involved in the field of research with the aim to promote and recognise the importance of the role of women.

PRAGES (PRActising Gender Equality in Science) is the project

launched by the Department for Equal Opportunities – Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italian Government with the support of ASDO - Assema delle donne per lo sviluppo e la lotta all'esclusione sociale – which aims to collect, classify and evaluate good practices and positive actions in Europe, USA and Australia to make them available to the decision-makers and to encourage a debate among researchers, policy-makers, social parties and medias.

Nine institutes together with the Department for Equal Opportunities and ASDO, brought together in a Consortium, are involved in the project:

- TETALAP
- Università degli Studi Milano Bicocca
- Aarhus University
- Manchester University
- Università degli Studi di Milano
- Simmons College School of Management



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità



– Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge

- Australian National University
- European University Institute, with representatives coming from six different countries (Italy, Hungary, Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom, USA).

Through PRAGES it is intended to overcome the merely descriptive level of the gender issue in the scientific field and adopt an analytic, evaluative and multi-disciplinary approach in order to understand the effective capacity of the practices to influence the reality and to produce any results. The project provides for:

- the networking (WP1) led by the partners together with their contacts to identify good practices;
- the monitoring of initiatives, conferences and meetings related to gender issues in science with the institution of an Observatory (WP2);
- the creation of a database of good practices (WP3);
- the elaboration of indicators for the comparison and the evaluation of the most relevant data related to good practices with a benchmarking perspective (WP4);
- the elaboration of guidelines to promote women's presence in the decision making positions of public research (WP5);
- an articulated programme of public communication to disseminate and discuss the results (WP6). The activities are integrated by a specific work of management aiming to reach and keep an high qualitative level of the results which have been progressively obtained and to assure the technical and administrative coordination (WP7).



Preliminary studies

The launching of the project has been devoted to the elaboration of "preliminary studies" for the operative planning – edited by ASDO in collaboration with other partners – which have examined international literature, documentations produced by the European Commission and those edited by other public and private actors, both at international and European level.

The preliminary studies, belonging to the WP1 (deliverable D.1.1) has had the following scopes:

- the transformations involving scientific and technological research (STR) in Europe and all around the world;
- the presence, the distribution and the productivity of women in STR;
- the obstacles in entering STR and women advancement in this field;
- the contribution offered by feminist studies and Science and Technology Studies (STS) to the analysis of gender issues in science;
- a focus on good practices for the advancement of women in science.

Kick off meeting

The Consortium met on 27th June 2008 at the Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri in Rome. The meeting which marked the beginning of activities was attended by 9 representatives of the 11 partners:

- **Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità** – Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri of the Italian Government as the project coordinator;
- **ASDO** – Assema delle donne per lo sviluppo e la lotta contro l'esclusione sociale (Italy);
- **TETALAP** – Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány (Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation – Hungary);
- **Università degli Studi Milano - Bicocca** (Italy);
- **Aarhus University** (Denmark), Manchester University (United Kingdom);
- **Università degli Studi di Milano** (Italy);
- **University of Cambridge** (United Kingdom);
- **Australian National University** (Australia).

Also Ms Marina Marchetti, the representative in charge for the project at Unit "Scientific culture and gender issues" of the Directorate General Research of the European Commission attended the meeting.

The preliminary studies and the operative project of PRA.G.E.S. (deliverable D:7.2) have been presented during the meeting.

Operational Networking

The first phase of the project PRAGES consists in the networking mainly aiming to identify the sources to collect good practices which will be later analysed and evaluated.

The University Statale of Milano has planned a database which is accessible to all the partners in order to create a networking of about 1000 addresses of European and International contacts.

The University Statale has also prepared a form to indicate any good practices. The form can be downloaded by the following [link](#) and after been completed, it can be sent to prages@unimi.it.



Monitoring of the events
 Since the kick off meeting, the Hungarian partner TETALAP has started the collection of information on the relevant events dealing with the issues of women presence in STR (conferences, awards, books, researches, etc.) promoted both at European and international level.

[Events list](#)



	All	Education/ Humanities	Law/ Social Sciences	Management/ Benchmarking	Medical Sciences	Natural Sciences/ Engineering/ Architecture	Total
Australia	13.5	17	6.1	31.8	10	4.6	10.4 N=102
Canada	9.1	0	4.3	10.6	13.3	12	9.1 N=89
USA	20.4	23.4	4.9	4.7	23.3	37.9	23 N=225
Central European countries	12.7	14.9	13.4	9.4	16.7	10.6	12.1 N=118
Eastern European countries	9.1	2.1	12.2	5.9	0	1.9	6 N=59
Southern European countries	10.2	23.4	29.3	18.8	13.3	5.4	13.2 N=129
Northern European countries	9.8	12.8	22	9.4	10	6	10.8 N=106
UK/Ireland	11.6	4.3	2.4	8.2	13.3	20.4	12.8 N=125
Others	3.6	2.1	5.5	1.2	0	1.1	2.6 N=25
Total	100 N=275	100 N=47	100 N=164	100 N=85	100 N=30	100 N=367	100 N=978

Meeting of coordination and monitoring

After the signing of the contract with the European Commission, the Department for Equal Opportunities with the scientific and organisational support of ASDO, has started the monitoring and the coordination of the project.