

Invitation

International Conference

Women - Science – SEE

**Promotion of Women in Science in Southeastern Europe in
the context of European Integration**

Date:
21.-22. October 2004

Venue:
Sofia, Bulgaria

Organisers:

Austrian Science and Research Liaison Offices (ASOs) Ljubljana and Sofia
Center of Women's Studies and Policies, Sofia

Background:

In most European countries, there are proportionately more female than male graduates, but women and female researchers remain under-represented in science and in decision-making bodies concerned with scientific issues, a trend that is accentuated in natural science and technical fields. This under-representation of women in science is both a waste of human resources and a serious obstacle for the development of the sciences and for European society as a whole – a fact that has been pointed out also by the Helsinki Group on Women and Science¹ and the ENWISE (Enlarge 'Women in Science' to East) expert group which has been set up by the European Commission².

In analogy to deliberations which have led to setting up the ENWISE group³ the organisers of the conference "Women – Science – SEE" are convinced that the situation of women in science in Southeastern European countries deserves special attention too, because of their specific historic and cultural background as well as because of the fact that these countries are intended to become EU member states in the long run and thus part of European Research Area, where synergies between national and regional policies and

¹ "The Helsinki Group on Women and Science" (established 1999, Members from 32 countries)

² http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/enwise/index_en.html

³ "Communist period and the transition to market economy have created a very special situation for women scientists, different in many aspects from those in the European Union and the other candidate countries"

actions, strengthening the participation of women in science and mainstreaming gender equality in scientific institutions should be sought.

Therefore the relevant knowledge base for policy development has to be developed. This includes an overview over status quo regarding women in science in those SEE countries which are not yet EU member states, inventory of and exchange of experience of national initiatives, programmes and the development of policies and experiences regarding efforts undertaken by SEE countries to get integrated into EU activities in the field of "Women and Science".

Objectives of the conference:

The main aim of the conference is to facilitate the exchange of experience regarding national initiatives, examples of good and best practice, programmes and policy developments in the field women in science and to trigger thus a stronger integration of SEE non-EU-member states in EU activities in the field of "Women and Science".

Participants

Experts, stakeholders, civil servants and institutions in charge of gender issues will have the possibility to exchange their experience and to reflect on their efforts in the EU and regional framework. Participants are coming from EU-Member states and Southeastern European countries.

Thursday, 21.10.2004 10.00 AM – 16.30 PM

Opening session:

Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science
Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (bm:bwk)
ASO Sofia and CWSP Sofia

Keynotes:

Austria
Serbia
Bulgaria
EU-DG Women and Science Unit of the European Commissions
Research Center

Panel 1:

European and national framework to promote women in science

- Reports on European and national level
 1. Country reports
 2. Helsinki group of women in science
 3. ENWISE report

- Differences and common similarities among in SEE on national level
 1. Structural and economic background of science policies
 2. Sectoral objectives and gender issues

Friday, 22.10.2004 9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

Panel 2:

Initiatives and programmes- sharing experiences

- Countries in SEE
- Austrian programmes (fforte, DOCforte, Mentoring-programmes)
- European initiatives and their implementation (e.g. ESF)

Panel 3:

Perspectives for future activities and programmes

- Suggestions for future activities (SEE, EU – level)
- Next steps developing policies
- Future networking activities for the SEE region

Working Language: English

Travel and accommodation costs of paper presenters will be covered by the organisers; costs of participants not presenting papers can be covered by organisers on request.

Proceedings of the conference will be published.

Links:

ASOs: <http://www.zsi.at>

Slovenia:

http://www.mszs.si/eng/science/activity/women_in_science.asp

<http://www.uem-rs.si/eng/>

European links:

<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/women/home.htm>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women-science/women-science_en.html

Austria:

<http://www.researchinaustria.info/women.htm>

The conference is being supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in the framework of its SEE science cooperation initiative.