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## **SITE VISIT FOR MONITORING UNIRC'S GENDER EQUALITY PLAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT HORIZON 2020 GEECCO**

Implementing GEPs at RPOs requires from one hand the identification of aims, actions and expected outputs, and from the other hand quantitative and qualitative assessment to monitor progresses and, in case, make changes to achieve the aims.

In this perspective, the German Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences (GESIS), partner of the European project H2020 GEECCO, has the role of evaluator to monitor the implementation of the tailor-made GEPs at each RPO participating in the GEECCO partnership. Site visits have been planned to this aim and one of these visits took place at the University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria (UNIRC) on 29th and 30th May 2019.

During these two days, there were several meetings for individual and group interviews, which focused on various topics and different aspects according to the features of UNIRC's GEP. As UNIRC is setting its first GEP, preliminary actions are still in progress and at an initial stage. However, starting from results achieved by other RPOs, both within and outside the partnership, UNIRC is trying to implement an advanced GEP, although at a first stage. One of the most important actions is increasing awareness, because gender equality issues and related actions are new topics for UNIRC academic staff.

The visit by GESIS has had two important benefits. First, the experts by GESIS checked the state of advancement of the tailor made GEP and the commitment level of both GEECCO involved people and academic staff in general. Second, the visit in itself made some people aware about the existence of gender topics, their relevance in STEM areas and, not the least, the efforts and progresses made by the GEECCO team at UNIRC. Comments and suggestions, which GESIS will provide after suitable analyses of the collected information, will help the GEECCO UNIRC team to target better actions and achieve effective results.