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RFO Observer Group Exchange Workshop at WWTF

The Exchange Workshop of the RFO Observer Group within the European GEECCO project took place on April 25, 2019 at WWTF (Vienna Science and Technology Fund) and was facilitated by Bente Knoll from B-NK GmbH (Büro für nachhaltige Kompetenz) together with Maxime Forest from Yellow Window. Representatives of different European research funding organizations (RFOs) participated in the workshop: Karin Dögl and Vanja Bernhauer from the Vienna Business Agency (VBA), Stephanie Rammel from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Sabine Haubenwallner from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Henrike Hartmann from the Volkswagen Foundation and Nahia Aragón Basabe from the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI) represented the RFO Observer Group. Michael Stampfer, Donia Lasinger and Elisabeth Nagl from the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF) and Jana Dvořáčková and Marcel Kraus from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) represented the two RFOs which are part of the GEECCO Consortium. Brigitte Ratzer, Coordinator of the project, also participated in the workshop. As a visitor and representative of another H2020 project closely linked to GEECCO, Florian Holzinger from Joanneum Research participated in the workshop.

The goal of the workshop was to exchange experiences regarding gender mainstreaming in the funding activities. The first part of the workshop was focussed on the one hand on summing up the activities which took place in the two first years of the project in terms of exchange. Also, a brief summary of first findings of the questionnaire survey conducted by TACR and WWTF was given to the participants.

The next sessions were structured according to the sections of the questionnaire: the internal sphere of RFOs, the funding activities, the interconnectedness between RFOs and RPOs and the selection procedure. Different presentations and activities were made in all the sessions. FWF gave a presentation of the newly created Gender Equality Strategy; TACR and VBA presented general and special funding programmes addressing gender mainstreaming.

The session on the interconnectedness was organized as an interactive one: the participants worked in two groups to think about new possibilities to increase the interaction between RFOs and RPOs regarding GM. The participants were asked to think about the key scientific challenges addressed in two or three most recent calls according to the following questions: 1) Why was it considered as a key scientific challenge (and who made the decision)?, 2) How is it to be tackled (which kind of knowledge has to be mobilized)?, 3) To whom (people/ groups of people/ society as a whole) is it to be ultimately addressed? Following this, the groups were also asked to think of potential gender dimensions in the research content (based on the two or three most recent calls) and to list them.

As the final part of the workshop, FFG presented their evaluation criteria and the Volkswagen Foundation presented a newly established selection scheme, i.e. Randomization.



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The European [GEECCO](#) project ('Gender Equality in Engineering through Communication and Commitment') aims to increase the presence of women in the world of science and technology, engineering and mathematics.

Dr. Brigitte Ratzer (Office for Gender Competence, TU Wien) is coordinator of the GEECCO project.

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