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Presentation of the GEECCO project

Seminar on *Gender perspectives in STEM Universities* organized at the University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria

[The University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria](#) presented the [GEECCO project](#) to academic and local bodies on 2nd March. These latter were represented by presidents and representatives of Equal Opportunities committees of some relevant bodies such as Calabria administrative region, the Municipality of Reggio Calabria and the administrative body Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria.

Under the seminar [Gender perspectives in STEM Universities](#) a general overview and context was given by core figures of the University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria. The session was started by the Deputy Rector prof. [Marcello Zimbone](#) who underlined the importance of the project itself and the new opportunities that it represents for the University. On the other hand, Mr. [Domenico Cappellano](#), Office Manager at the University, gave a brief summary of *Horizon 2020* funding structure, highlighting opportunities and resources.

Getting to the heart of the matter, Prof. [Maria Nadia Postorino](#), Vice Rector for Equal Opportunities and director of the project working team at the University Mediterranea, presented the main goals of GEECCO and discussed the importance to set Gender Equality Plans at STEM institutions as well as networking and cooperation with local bodies.

Prof. [Francesco Manganaro](#), Head of the Laws and Economics department at the same University, provided an overview on Equal Opportunities issues under the legislative point of view at national, local and academic level.

Invited speakers

The first invited speaker was Mme [Ariane Dupont-Kieffer](#), Head of *Unité Formation et Recherche* at University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, who covered interesting topics ranging from the importance of perseverance – particularly in male-dominated environments – to woman capability to adapt to job requirements. According to Mme Dupont-Kieffer, communication and information are significant since childhood. Children should be aware that they have the same capabilities and that gender is not a limitation. She remarked the need of a new generation of engineers for a new strategic development of academia with no more gender bias.

The sociologist [Guerino Bovalino](#), from the University Dante Alighieri of Reggio Calabria, was the second invited speaker. He discussed woman usual stereotypes in our society and suggested that cooperation between women and men is the best way to remove stereotypes.

Finally, during the final part of the seminar several local representatives of public bodies, professionals and the student representative in the Academic Senate contributed to the debate. The latter remarked not only the importance of taking part in the Academic Senate Committee as student and girl, but also the fact that she is an engineering girl student elected in a male-dominated environment.

To underline the importance of student participation and awareness, the association EURECa (Engineers' Union of Reggio Calabria), composed by engineering students of the University Mediterranea, supported actively the organization of the seminar.

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