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## Ask critical questions! Workshop on gender in research at TU Wien

The second workshop planned within the European **GEECCO** project took place on September 25th at TU Wien (Vienna) and was led by Bente Knoll from B-NK GmbH (Büro für nachhaltige Kompetenz).

After the presentation of basic concepts and definitions of sex, gender and intersectionality, Bente Knoll spoke about the various aspects of gender in higher education. She highlighted the situation at TU Wien, where a Gender Equality Plan has been implemented since 2004 and among other regulations foresees promotion of women's research. In addition, there are national and international regulations regarding the gender dimension, as for example in H2020 calls.

Therefore, in order to promote gender equality in higher education, demanding the gender dimension in research funding is an important step in the right direction. But how can researchers for whom gender analysis sounds like an unnecessary extra task – or researchers who simply have not thought about gender aspects until now – learn how to include gender issues in their research?

Bente Knoll informed the 15 participants (mostly researchers from various fields at TU Wien) about the 3 different gender dimensions in research: fixing the numbers, fixing the institutions and fixing the knowledge. Questions one could ask include: Who decides (not)? Who is (not) included in decision making processes? What is being researched and who does (not) benefit from this research? Last but not least: In which world do we want to live? What do we need? What kind of problems would we like to solve? Research including a gender perspective implies asking critical questions, as Bente Knoll pointed out.

In the afternoon of the training, the participants had the possibility to work on their own research questions concerning the gender dimension and to discuss them with the other participants. At the end of the training all participants learned how to integrate gender in their research. For further information Bente Knoll also recommended the website [Gendered Innovations](#) (a German translation is also available: <http://www.geschlecht-und-innovation.at>).

**Dr. Bente Knoll** is a landscape and transport planner and gender expert. She holds a diploma in social media design, has a MSc in Landscape Planning and Architecture and a PhD in Transport and Traffic Planning. Since establishing her company [B-NK GmbH](#), Bente Knoll as founder and managing director has managed over 40 projects. She took part in over 15 national and international project consortiums. Bente Knoll is a highly qualified project manager, social and gender expert. In all her projects, she has fulfilled beside of project management tasks alongside several key expert positions.

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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