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GEECCO dissemination report

from the workshop *New trends in the evaluation of research proposals* organized by the H2020 project CHANGE (with the contribution of GEECCO)

23.10.2020 (online)

On 23 October 2020 Jana Dvorackova and Marcel Kraus from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic presented their perspectives on how gender equality in the evaluation process can be promoted and their experience with this kind of measures in a workshop for the management of Slovak organizations providing research funding. The workshop was organized by the project CHANGE (GA No. 787177).

The main issue of the workshop was how to make the process of evaluating research proposals more objective and impartial. The event was attended by 8 representatives of Slovak organizations providing research funding (Slovak Research and Development Agency; Scientific Grant Agency VEGA; Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, the workshop (originally scheduled as an in person meeting in Bratislava) was transformed into the online format. It was conceived as a half-day workshop and was composed of 4 parts:

In the first part Jana Dvorackova introduced the topic of implicit gender and other biases, relevant research on their effects, and effective strategies of their elimination already used by funders in different countries.

The second part (also facilitated by Jana Dvorackova) focused on other kinds of measures increasing gender sensitivity in the evaluation of research proposals – accounting for career breaks and possible revisions of common performance indicators that may be gendered to some extent.

In the third part of the workshop Marcel Kraus shared the experience of the Technology Agency with the measures aiming at gender equality among researchers and in research performing organizations implemented as part of the GEECCO project.

The last part of the workshop (using the breakout rooms) was dedicated to a common discussion on how to improve the setting of financing research in concrete organizations represented in the workshop.

The workshop provided a good platform for discussion of the specific settings of the evaluation process in different organizations and spaces for its improvement. Despite the limitations related to the online format, it also provided an opportunity for networking and initiating cooperation on gender equality measures in the future.

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