

GENDER AND DIVERSITY BREAKFAST WEBINARS

DATE OF 8 September 2020

DOCUMENT:

Ensuring gender equality and diversity is a key societal challenge and an European Commission priority that is transversal to its policy goals and specific programmes, namely the research and innovation related ones. Research and Technology Organisations hold a major responsibility for contributing to achieve greater gender and diversity in research, but also in education, industry and across the very diverse societal actors with which it collaborates regularly.

As the example starts within and with the goal of promoting the debate, awareness and effective change, INESC Brussels HUB is organising a series called the “Gender & diversity breakfast webinars”. Beyond the crucial role of RTOs, we will discuss what would be the most effective activities and measures to implement through an R&I project addressing gender & diversity, as well as the key role of role models in promoting a more balanced participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) R&I.

INESC strives to provide full gender equality and respect for diversity through an open and inclusive position, from employment to career progression. As an example, INESC TEC is in the process of setting up an internal Commission for Gender Equality and Diversity and the issue has been raised by INESC ID and INESC MN in the recent meeting with Members of the European Parliament meeting, which took place in the HUB premises before the COVID19 lockdown, raising immense interest from the EP.

As a step forward in the promotion of this debate 3 webinars are foreseen

1. Gender and Diversity in research and technology organisations in Europe
2. If you had one million euros for a R&I project promoting gender and diversity, what activities would you implement?
3. The role of the role-models in gender and diversity in STEM research and technology

FORMAT AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

This will be a webinar-podcast so it will take the shape of a conversation.

- Ricardo Migueis, as moderator, will introduce the speakers and subject-matter of the webinar and address a question to each of the speakers;
- each speaker may answer in a maximum of 5 minutes to the first question;
- from there onwards, questions and answers are more fluid; content-planning is light to allow the conversation to run freely. The moderator will bring the conversation back to the previously agreed central topics when needed.
- if any of the speakers have PPT presentations, PDFs, books to recommend, etc, these can be circulated to the registered participants after the meeting and will mentioned in the podcast notes.
- registered participants from around Europe will be able to submit written questions during the webinar and the moderator may ask the panel to respond.

It is foreseen that the webinar/podcast lasts between 40 minutes and 1h, but there is flexibility. It will be published in all major platforms (Apple podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and others). Podcast notes will include synopsis and other recommended readings.

LINK TO CONNECT TO THE WEBINAR

<https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/94250183119?pwd=TXZZRml3T2w5bnZuL1ZiTHd1QjRhZ09>

Meeting ID: 942 5018 3119

Password: 144717

AGENDA AND CONTENT PLAN

11 September, 8h30 GMT+1 / 9h30 CET

The role of the role-models in gender and diversity in STEM research and technology

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament

Sara Ricci, Professor, Brno University of Technology, Member of the SPARTA project

Susana Cardoso Freitas, Director, INESC MN

CONTENT PLAN

The first question the moderator will pose to each of you is inspired in the title of this webinar:

What is, in your view, the role of role-models in gender and diversity in STEM research and technology?

Please elaborate on the question enough so as to allow other issues to be picked-up and promote lively conversation and debate. From there, feel free to intervene when you see fit, responding or commenting directly to the statements of other speakers and picking upon the questions raised by the registered participants in the chat function of the ZOOM platform. The moderator will be paying close attention to this and raise attention to participant questions, if pertinent.

Other possible questions to guide the conversation:

- What is a role model in research and innovation?
- Can you give an example of a role-model that has inspired you? Why?
- Gender-science stereotypes of math and science can potentially influence young women's and men's aspirations to enrol in a STEM major at university. What can we do to change this?
- In the recently published report on AI, the European Commission highlighted how AI may contribute to a deepening of gender bias and inequality if it does not consider these issues as central in the development of new algorithms and technological solutions. This points to an ingrained cultural bias. How do you think technology can contribute to diminish cultural bias in Europe?
- How do you evaluate the European Commission's efforts to promote gender equality and diversity in research and innovation?
- What is your personal experience as a female public figure and in leadership positions? How do you compare your career path and inherent difficulties to the young women's career perspectives today?
- What are the European Parliament's initiatives to promote gender and diversity?
- What is your university/research organisation doing right and wrong? Why? What could be done better and how?

SHORT BIOS

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament

Maria da Graça Carvalho is currently a member of the European Parliament. She was a senior advisor of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, from November 2014 to December 2015. Previously, she was a member of the European Parliament, between July 2009 and May 2014. In that capacity, she was one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. She was also Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change from 2006 to 2009. She served as a Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV Constitutional Government of Portugal and Minister of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of the XVI Constitutional Government. She is a Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon).

Sara Ricci, Professor, Brno University of Technology, Member of the SPARTA project

Sara Ricci is a postdoctoral researcher at Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic. She accomplished her M.Sc. degree in Mathematics at University of Pisa, Italy in 2015 and her PhD studies in Computer Engineering and Mathematics Security at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain in 2018. Her research interest are theoretical cryptography, in particular lattice-based and elliptic curve cryptography, and data privacy and security. She is also focused on the design of new privacy-preserving cryptographic protocols and their security analyses.

Susana Cardoso Freitas, Director, INESC MN

Susana Cardoso Freitas is an Associated Professor at the Physics Department at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) and principal investigator at INESC-MN. Her research interests include advanced thin films for nanoelectronics and magnetic sensors for challenging applications. She graduated in Technological Physics Engineering (IST, 1996) and holds a Ph.D. degree in Physics (IST, 2002). In 2002 she was a “Co-op Pre-Professional Engineer” at IBM, T.J.Watson Research Center (USA). After, she became a researcher at INESC-MN, and is the co-leader of the Magnetism & Spintronics group since 2006. She was one of the team members awarded as 2nd finalist for the EU Descartes Prize for Research in 2004 for the work in magnetic memories for the future nanoelectronics. Since then she coordinated and participated as principal researcher in several EU and national projects, with a strong collaboration between INESC-MN and the industry for advanced materials, devices and integrated systems for robotics, biomedical and industrial applications.

She is one of the Directors at INESC-MN and an Associated Professor at the Physics Department (IST) since 2015, and is responsible for student coordination and educational activities related with nanoelectronics, microfabrication and spintronics. She was appointed Coordinator for the Educational Activities of the IEEE Portugal section in 2015. Susana was a recipient of the Honorable Mention in Scientific Awards ULisboa/Santander in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and an award by the Magnetic Society of Japan in 2014. In 2018 she was selected as one of “100 Women in Science” by the Portuguese Agency of Science and Technology “Ciência Viva”.