



Project no.: 036651

Project acronym: WS DEBATE

Project title: Stimulating Policy Debate on Women and Science Issues in Central Europe

Instrument: Specific Support Action

Thematic Priority: Science and Society

Publishable Final Activity report

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Duration: 2 years

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Project coordinator organisation name: Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation

WS DEBATE

Stimulating Policy Debate on Women and Science Issues in Central Europe

<http://wsdebate.tetalap.hu>

Summary description of project objectives

Major overall objective of the **WS DEBATE** project is the stimulation of policy and public debate on the situation and perspectives of women in science, in order to bridge the gap between policy developments and public understanding of the related issues, and to **raise gender awareness** among policy makers, scientists, as well as among the lay public interested in scientific developments. This objective is realized by **encouraging a broad public debate** based on the dissemination of the knowledge gathered by the Enwise report (Waste of talents: turning private struggles into a public issue – Women and Science in the Enwise countries; European Commission, EUR 20955 EN) in the countries of **Central Europe** (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia). The distribution, dissemination and media presentation of this report in the local languages is the logical first step after the delivery of the report. As the Enwise report itself is reflecting continuity of a number of efforts already made in the same direction by the European Commission, this project is aiming to make the continuity visible for the respective audiences of **policy makers and scientists**, as well as of target groups still unaware of the issue in Central Europe, by involving also mass media. The project supports the process of **implementation of Enwise recommendations**, which should enable long run sustainability of those efforts in the CE countries, as well as contribute to the promotion of a **dialogue on best gender equality practice**.

Specific objectives of the activities in the **WS DEBATE** project are the following:

- To **inform** local scientific policy decision makers, as well as women and men scientists about the Enwise report, thus **promoting the dialogue** among interested and/or responsible parties.
- To **sensitise women scientists** for the problems they face, to **raise gender awareness** among scientists (both women and men) and to empower them to overcome those problems by introducing them to the relevant activities presently in process in Europe and all over the world.
- To **identify good practices** at institutional, national and European levels and promote the dialogue on best gender equality practice between companies, universities and research institutions.
- To **encourage** women scientists in Central Europe to mobilize through national associations and **networks** and to link with the European Platform of Women Scientists and other international initiatives.

- To **encourage women** scientists to take more active part in ERA.
- To **make links and support exchange** between gender experts and local scientists to ensure inclusion of gender dimension in future scientific research and science administration.
- To **inform the media** about the Enwise Report and the related national reports and to **sensitise the mass media** for the problems of women scientists.

In order to fulfil these objectives, a project consortium consisting of 5 partners was set up as follows:

Partic No.	Participant name	Short name	Country
1	Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation	HSTF	Hungary
2	Institute of Sociology AS CR - National Contact Centre - Women and Science	SOU	Czech Republic
3	University of Lodz – Women’s Studies Centre	WSC	Poland
4	Slovak University of Technology	STU	Slovakia
5	Jozef Stefan Institute	JSI	Slovenia

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Work performed and results achieved

In measurable and verifiable terms, the following overall achievements were reached by the *WS DEBATE* consortium in the first year of the project:

- updated reports on the situation of women in science in the partner countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) – **5 national reports** were prepared in national languages and translated to English; the reports were printed in 500 copies each,
- the English report „**Re-claiming a political voice: Women and science in Central Europe**” including the English version of the 5 national reports was compiled and published in 1000 copies,
- national and world-wide **distributions lists** were prepared for the dissemination of the national reports and the English summary report,

- information on the issue of women and science and raising awareness on the conferences - a **homepage** within the coordinator's website was set up (<http://wsdebate.tetalap.hu>),
- informing potential, targeted audience on the national conferences – a **project brochure** was prepared in 2500 copies and disseminated by the partners,
- national conferences on the Enwise report and related issues – a total of **6 conferences** were organized with 462 people in the audience and with more than 40 invited lecturers,
- an **international dissemination conference** was organized in Istanbul.

End results

The conferences exposed evidence on women's marginalisation in science, sensitizing the scientific and the wider public for the issues. Women scientists have been sensitized for the relevance of gender dimension in research and they were exposed to epistemological concerns related to the issue. The project activities supported communication and exchange among wider circles of women scientists, on one hand, and gender experts of the project partner countries, on the other, which presumably will have a lasting impact for the inclusion of gender dimension into future scientific research. The conferences also encouraged national, disciplinary, regional and wider European networking of women scientists.